



ACCREDITED



The Maldon District Museum Association Newsletter

MUSEUMS LIBRARIES ARCHIVES

**WINDOWS AT WAR**  
See Story Page 2

## *In this issue*

|                                |         |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Chairman's Chat                | 1       | Wat Tyler and his Revolting Peasants | 13 - 15 |
| Windows at War                 | 2 - 4   | St Cedd's Chatline                   | 16      |
| Penny Farthing Needs You!      | 4       | Where Was It?                        | 17      |
| A Wonderful Career             | 5 - 8   | Elms Farm, Heybridge                 | 18      |
| Maldon Market Area 1540-1640   | 9       | The Bardens of Maldon                | 19 - 20 |
| Our "Vigorous" Essex Ancestors | 10 & 17 | Times Past 1859                      | 21      |
| The Ration Book Diet           | 11 - 12 | Advert from the early 1900's         | 22      |



The summer holiday season is going well with an increased attendance at the Museum, which may be due in part, to the uncertain weather in July but is also related to an energetic marketing campaign by Molly Middleton, our Publicity Officer. At the suggestion of the Tourist Information Office an attractive three-page colour leaflet has been designed by Liz Willsher, who organised the printing, and with the help of Molly and Judy Betteridge its distribution. Leaflets have already been noted in many places around the town but if any member knows a site where they are not presently on show could you let Molly know?

Although we have had some expressions of interest in taking up the editorship of *Penny Farthing* we are still awaiting a firm offer to fill this very important role. Time is running out so please make contact with Tony Mandara, or myself, in order that a familiarisation session can be arranged.

We are also seeking someone to take on the post for liaison with schools to arrange visits during 2010. Would you be interested? Do let me know.

We have agreed, as last year, to take part in the Heritage Open Days of Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11th to 13th September, when we shall need extra helpers as a sales stall is planned. We will also participate in the Maldon Art Trail from Saturday 26th September until Sunday 4th October, during which we shall again be featuring works by one of our own members; this year paintings by Liz Willsher. Do look in at the Museum during this time, perhaps whilst seeking the poet trees which are promised in the Park! Check the trees out on the Art Trail website.

Best wishes to all our members and supporters.

*Paddy Lacey*

---

*Penny Farthing* is dependent upon your contribution.

All articles, items, photos, comments and letters are welcome:

Please send to Tony Mandara, 41 Abbotsmead, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex CM9 4PT.

Tel: (01621) 840056

Copy deadline for the Winter Issue of *Penny Farthing* is 5 November 2009



## WINDOWS AT WAR

The metamorphosis from metal windows to munitions

**From 1939 to 1945, during World War II, almost the entirety of British industry was dedicated to the war effort. Companies both large and small turned their peacetime production over to supplying arms and equipment for our fighting forces.**

Essex, like every other county, played its part in this effort and among the thousands of essential war materials made in Maldon and the surrounding area, were tail-fins and bomb-doors for Halifax bombers made by Bentalls; Torpedo Boats and airborne life-boats built by Sadds; and naval shore boats produced at Walter Cook's Boatyard on the Hythe.

One of the district's major industries, the Crittall Manufacturing Company turned most of its peacetime production of metal window frames over to munitions and other essential war items.

Their works in Braintree, Maldon, Witham and Silver End produced over twenty

thousand tons of shells during the war, including 1,400,000 of the famous 25 pdr shells; superstructures for Royal Navy frigates; three million pressed steel ammunition boxes; and five and a half million interlocking links for ammunition belts for 2-lb multiple pom-pom guns in addition to two and a quarter million for cannon fitted in the wings of fighter aircraft.

The Crittall Company's history began in Braintree in 1849 when Francis Barrington Crittall opened an ironmonger's shop in Bank Street. He was moderately successful and when he died his fellow shopkeepers closed for the day as an act of respect. His son Francis Henry, born "above the shop" in 1860, worked in the family business and took it over on his father's death.

Francis Henry expanded the company to specialise in metal-work, an early contract being for the metal fittings for the new Braintree Gardens opened in 1888, and he founded the Crittall Manufacturing Company in 1889. By the 1930's the company employed several thousand men and women.

The business became so successful that in 1893 Francis Crittall moved his firm into the comparatively huge Manor works. This was done in a single weekend to avoid interrupting production. In the early years of the 20th century the company opened a London office and entered the United States market, making the windows for Ford's Model T Factory.

By the 1920's the population of Braintree had reached 18,000, of whom it has been estimated 10,000 were Crittall employees and their families.

It became increasingly clear that the town could not meet the needs of the Crittall workforce and the only solution was to build a completely new village to accommodate both factory and workforce. Accordingly Francis purchased 220 acres at Silver End and produced a five-year plan to build 100 houses a year with a density of no more than ten to the acre.

The village was to be a total environment, with its own water and power supplies, allotments, non profit making farms, piggeries, dairy, slaughterhouse, bakery, sausage factory, **cont** ▶

newspaper and print works. A 26 department store, a village hall, school, churches and chapel, playing fields, a light engineering works for disabled veterans from the First World War, as well as full sports and social facilities, were just some of the amenities provided for those moving to Silver End. Indeed it was claimed that there was never any need to leave the village on a daily or even weekly basis.

Silver End was a success story with the lowest death rate and the highest birth rate in England, and for a few years it attracted press attention for its social innovation - being called the "Metal Window Kingdom of Happiness".

However the world-wide depression of the 1930's cut short the village's growth and short-time working became a reality for its residents. The Crittall Building Society was wound up and plans for further housing, a hospital and swimming pool were scrapped. In spite of these setbacks the Crittall family continued to be involved with the village and led it and the business throughout the Second World War.

Women took over an increasing share of the factory work. In addition to military equipment metal windows were still required for camps, barracks, emergency hospitals, government

factories, airfields and other priority buildings. Many photos of air crew awaiting dispersal show them sitting outside huts with Crittall windows.

A more unusual location for the metal windows was in the "Sea Forts" built on stilts in the North Sea.

Not only did Crittalls produce the windows for dispersal huts they also supplied the RAF with 80,000 ribs for "Blister" hangars (which were light and easily transportable but immensely strong), and 20,000 welded steel Landing Mats for runways.

The company also became one of the largest manufacturers of components for the famous Bailey bridges, producing 64,000 main panels, over 16,000 sets of frames for pontoons besides many other parts used in this invention. A Bailey Bridge, at 1,200 ft, over the River Sangro in Italy was the longest ever erected in any theatre of war.

In addition to the work on Bailey Bridges the company made thousands of standardised components, used by the Royal Engineers in the construction of railway bridges and marine piers.

The volume and variety of work undertaken by Crittalls necessitated that

factories continued production both night and day, yet many of the workforce still found time to join the Local Defence Volunteers (there were several Works' Platoons), and in addition to their spare time military training, provided security guards for the factories, bomb-disposal squads and Anti-Aircraft gunners. Witham Works' Platoon was twice in action against hostile aircraft.

The Witham factory was bombed on three occasions, the power house apparently being the main objective. Considerable damage was sustained, but production was not seriously disrupted.

All the factories, being only some 15 minutes' flying time from the coast, were at an obvious risk of attack. Consequently each had its own system of roof spotters to alert staff whenever danger threatened. Thanks largely to the efficiency of these "Jim Crows" there were no serious casualties.

As D-Day drew near, Crittalls' output increased while at the same time new products were introduced. These included twenty large metal pyramid like structures, being copies of those which had been spotted at low tide along the French coast, as underwater obstructions against landing craft. The copies were used by "Frogmen" to practice

methods of destroying them.

Another new product was a special inlet / outlet stack to be used on allied tanks in order to prevent their engines becoming water-logged during the dash from ship to shore. These stacks were discarded as soon as the tanks reached dry ground. Five thousand were supplied for both British and American tanks.

The company also made a number of 30ft single-span bridges, complete with launching girders to be mounted on tanks to allow them to quickly and easily lay a complete bridge across a dyke or narrow river.

With the end of the war Crittalls reverted back to its peacetime role of manufacturing windows. They became heavily involved in post-war reconstruction supplying windows for the famous pre-fabs and new housing estates so desperately needed to replace homes destroyed by bombing.

But at the end of the 1960's the Crittall company's proud record came to an end as it was taken over. Silver End was given up - its houses being acquired by the local authority.

Today new homes encircle and outnumber the old and only Preservation orders and village pride has saved Silver End from being

## YOUR PENNY FARTHING



## NEEDS YOU

Due to my continuing ill health I regret that I must relinquish my post as Editor of "Penny Farthing". This means that the next issue of this magazine (Winter 2009) will be my last and we desperately need someone to take over my post. I have thoroughly enjoyed producing this magazine for the last five years, but now it is time to hand in my eye shield and vacate the editor's chair.

If you would like to take over, all you need is a keen interest in local history and a computer (preferably with a Desk Top Publishing programme but not essential). The job is not difficult and I will be happy to give the incoming editor a tutorial on how to do it to get them started.

Should we not be able to find a volunteer then sadly this magazine will cease publication with the next issue.

If interested, please contact our Chairman or me, Tony Mandara (addresses and telephone numbers on the back page or inside cover of this issue) as soon as possible.

**Our Museum and "Penny Farthing" does need you - YES YOU!**

"modernised" to extinction.

Members of the Crittall family have long since left their village homes. However, the sense of community and history in Silver End remains remarkable. Silver End people still feel that their identity is

special. It is this particular sense of community and history that is an enduring legacy - 84 years after the inception of the village, 74 years after the death of the "Guv'nor" and 44 years after the demise of the Crittall company.



# A WONDERFUL CAREER

## The Death of Dr. J.H. Salter

**Dr Salter was a notable resident of the area in the late 1800's. He was a great extrovert with an open and fearless character, capable of great strength and great gentleness, loved by many, feared perhaps by some, widely revered and on his death much mourned. In the course of his life and career he wrote eighty diaries which were an unrivalled commentary of life and times of all facets of not only the tight community of Tolleshunt and Tollesbury, but indeed of Essex generally. Sadly these diaries were subsequently destroyed in an air-raid during World War Two and all that remains of these invaluable social records is a summary of them.**

**The following article is the obituary of Dr Slater which appeared in the Essex Chronicle on his death in 1932.**

**W**e regret to state that Dr John Henry Salter, D.L., J.P., Deputy Grand Master of Essex Freemasons - a noted physician and surgeon, sportsman, shot, horticulturist and public servant - passed away at 2.25 on Sunday afternoon at his residence, D'Arcy House, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, in his 91st year. He was born at Arundel on July 14, 1841, and came to Essex in 1864. He married at Leominster on October 12, 1864, Laura Mary, daughter of John Dukes, of Court Wick. She died on September 29, 1904. There are no children.

Dr. Salter, as well as having an extensive medical practice, and being a recognised consultant over a wide area, embraced in his wonderful career the whole world of sport - boxing, rowing, coursing, cricket, big-game shooting, dog-breeding, and for over sixty years he braved the rigours of day-break wild-duck shooting on the Essex marshes.

He did well as a student at King's College and gained many distinctions in medicine and surgery. He also started his sports while young, and soon had a reputation with the gloves for being remarkably quick on the mark. Perhaps the most notable boxing bout in which he ever engaged was when he faced in the ring Jem Mace, the heavy-weight champion of the world, and a very instructive time they spent together!

### LONG YEARS AT D'ARCY

Dr Salter bought the practice at Tolleshunt D'Arcy 67 years ago and during that long period he carried on his beneficent work over a radius of many miles, he knew all the people, as well as all the dogs and horses, in that big radius, and assisted at bringing children into the world up to the fourth generation. No fewer than seven thousand children have been delivered by Dr Salter. Asked recently about that by

a representative of the Essex Chronicle, he said: "Well, why talk too much about that? It is part of the day's work. I have been in practice since '63 or '64 and I have been here all that time. So I ought to have done something. I have never tried to outpace other people - only put in plenty of work, some of it I hope fairly useful."

There are families of a dozen or more in and around D'Arcy, all of whose members owe their very first debt of gratitude to Dr Salter. Mothers and grandparents are included. Letters have lately come from people half forgotten - old patients now comfortable in other parts, acquaintances of past decades who went out shooting with the Doctor, all cherishing happy recollections of his kindnesses.

### COUNTY WORK

How he did it all is wonderful - but he did it. He attended to and increased his practice to large dimensions, and at the same time he became expert in

horticulture, an authority on dogs and coursing, horses, a notable shot, and a hunter of bear and the elk in the wastes of Russia. He also devoted infinite pains and care to public duties. He qualified as a Justice of the Peace for Essex in 1888, and sitting regularly on the Witham Bench, became its chairman. He was also a Deputy Lieutenant for Essex and for 23 years from the formation of the County Council he sat as a representative of Tollesbury, being likewise on the Essex Standing Joint Committee, the Essex Education Committee, and so on, besides being chairman of the Wild Birds Protection Committee and chairman of the local school managers and president of nearly every movement for good in his own neighbourhood. He wrote articles for the medical papers and at one time was a member of the Council of the British Medical Association, a referee to many insurance companies and an Admiralty surgeon.

### NATIONAL SERVICE

With the late Mr A.C. Wilkin and the Hon. C.H. Strutt, he was one of the pioneers of the old-age pension movement, and in collaboration with the late Earl of Warwick, did much in the pioneer work for the treatment of consumption with the Essex Royal Association, formed as a memorial to the late King Edward VII. He was a great lover of justice in all things for all men, and this trait in his character, coupled

with his benevolence and good cheer, made every Freemason proud of his Deputy-Provincial Grand Master.

In Masonry Dr Salter attained great prominence. He had reached the 32nd degree in the craft, the 33rd degree being reserved for crowned heads. Dr Salter was born in Masonry and belonged to the order when he came to Essex. His grandfather was a Deputy Grand Master when the Duke of Cumberland was Grand Master of England and another relative, Col. Sir John Salter, Lord Mayor of London, was Deputy-Grand Master of England for five years in the 18th century.

### A GREAT FREEMASON

On the occasion of his 90th birthday, the Masons of the Province presented him with a beautiful illuminated address in book form, signed by the Masters and Wardens of all the lodges, and the brethren of the Easterford Lodge, Kelvedon, of which he had been treasurer for 36 years, gave him a boat-shaped silver rose bowl with an affectionate address.

Latterly, Dr Salter's chief pastime has been the cultivation of a garden which he made, and which was the pride and joy of his life. Despite his years, he also added two more hobbies to his heavy list - he revived the painting of his youth, with special attention to flowers and dogs, and he started to get his memoirs together. He

had already to his credit several publications on medical and surgical subjects, and sporting and kindred matters.

### SPORT AND ADVENTURE

His life was full of interesting adventure. He visited Russia ten times for big game shooting and D'Arcy House contains specimens of polar bears, wolves, elk and lynx which fell to his gun. He went over as vice-president of the English Kennel Club, at the invitation of the Imperial Society of Russia, of which the Czar was head, to give technical advice on the breeding of pointers, setters and other sporting dogs, and was liberally feted. The Russian visits ended just before the war. (*World War One. Ed.*)

Dr Salter was a great "doggy" man. He had champions in English pointers, English and Irish setters, black and brown retrievers, Sussex and cocker spaniels and greyhounds. Forty years ago he led the country in English field trials; he won the Field Trial Derby three times in succession with young dogs he had bred and twice won the All-age Stake. Actually for five years he had the monopoly of English field trial blood. His strain of pointers was taken to America and swept the deck there. For 31 years he was nominated for the Waterloo Cup; Honeymoon, which he bred, won the cup three times and Trougherd won the plate.

In flowers, Dr Salter specialised in roses and herbaceous plants; he judged big flower shows in London and village shows in Essex. He won the Award of Merit of the Royal Horticultural Society for his Mrs J H Salter alstroemeria, which grows in profusion in his garden. He had a most tempting offer for this, but he refused to part with it wholesale because it was "named after a good woman", his wife who predeceased him many years ago. There is no family.

#### STEMMING INVASION

Perhaps the most trying public duty ever placed upon him was that of chief of Special Constables along the Essex coast-line, from Maldon to Mersea, during the war. His primary duty, apart from maintaining the public peace, was to arrange for evacuation of the coast-line in the event of invasion.

We now know how near the eventuality of invasion actually came. Most people thought the Germans would try to land from deep water on the Norfolk coast, but Dr Salter saw that the Germans were too clever to do the obvious thing and the flat-bottomed boats they had concentrated at the mouth of the Elbe were, in his opinion, intended to be run onto the marshland coast of Essex.

His problem would then be to get the women, children and old men out of Tollesbury without interfering with the troops who would have swept through the country to meet the invaders.

From General Thornton he received a promise that he could use the Tollesbury Light Railway - which Dr Salter more than any other man brought into being - provided he was smart in rushing his people to Kelvedon, whence they would have to cross Essex by by-roads to the Herts border. Dr Salter would have accompanied his contingent to the Essex boundary, and then would have come the question, What would he do himself? A little secret can now be divulged. He had carefully laid his plans to dart back to D'Arcy with all speed. He held a Major's rank in the Essex Volunteer Force.

However successful opposition to a German landing might have been, some foreign troops would doubtless have slipped through and gained a footing on the lonely Essex coast around Tollesbury. Dr Salter had shot wild duck on the Tollesbury marshes for half a century; he had a splendid Mauser rifle, captured from a Boer officer, and plenty of ammunition, and he intended to exact the severest penalty from the invaders before he and his rifle went down! Fortunately that was an eventuality which never came to pass, but it indicates the spirit in which these things were regarded.

#### ZEPPELIN NIGHT

On the night the Zeppelin was brought down in flames at Little Wigborough, Dr Salter was in bed sleeping soundly after a long and tiresome

day's work. "Look, doctor, quick there's a Zeppelin coming down," a voice shouted in the darkness. As Dr Salter looked out of his bedroom window and saw the tremendous glare, his night bell rang to announce that there had been a bad accident near the Zeppelin. He went off to find that the young man who had rushed to the nearest police to give warning of the Zeppelin had collided on his motor cycle with a motor car (no road vehicles were allowed to carry lights in those days). Dr Salter attended to the man, saw the Zeppelin's crew under arrest and the military lorries take them to Colchester and he had a charming little snuff box made from a bit of the Zeppelin.

#### NINETY YEARS YOUNG

To other phases of Dr Salter's work reference has been made in the *Essex Chronicle* upon many previous occasions. "Although I am a Sussex native," he remarked, "I am an Essex man. My sympathies are with Essex; all that is done for the benefit of Essex I am pleased with. Most of my contemporaries have passed over, but I have always been able to make new friends in Essex. I love the county, and a lot of the people in it are valued friends of mine."

Until the last few months, when age began to tell on him physically, though mentally he was alert and strong to the end, he used to refer to himself as "so many years young."

Here is his recipe for good health. "Hard work, and plenty of it, is the best prescription for a long life and a happy one. It is a panacea for most of our evils today. Do things that suit you, not nurse your troubles. A good day's work blows them away - makes you forget them. Worry and good health do not rub together at all. Keep yourself doing something. Do everything you can, but do nothing to excess."

He had the greatest respect for the physique of the young people of the present generation. "Although there are individuals I could pick out thirty or forty years ago whose records would today take a lot of beating, I reckon that, taken generally, young men and women today rank high in the matter of sports and physique. They have more time, and I am glad that more attention is paid to open-air sports and pastimes. People are drinking less; there is more sobriety, but I am not so sure that in other directions there is not more laxity. I have great faith in the average man and woman, and there are many things today as well as and better than existed years ago."

He saw patients to the very end and it is but a short while since he was called out at night to a young man who had been badly injured in a motor car accident. On the bricked floor of a cottage kitchen the Doctor knelt for over three hours attending

to and stitching his wounds. He could not have survived a journey to the hospital - he is now quite well again. Dr Salter would not talk about this. "A doctor does a doctor's work, that's all," was as far as he would go.

The year before his death, Dr Salter attended Cruft's Dog Show, of which he was the president. He was also one of the few vice-presidents of the English Kennel Club. Just months before his demise he attended the Colchester Rose show in June and on July 1 came his annual garden party and the annual D'Arcy flower show. He insisted on going round the tents in the morning, but this proving too much for him, he had to retire in the afternoon, but not before leaving a neatly printed card for his three hundred guests worded "It is particularly hoped that everything will go on as usual in the possible absence through illness of your host. D'Arcy House, 1st July 1931.

Dr Salter died soon after. In his funeral oration the Bishop of Chelmsford said of him "He enriched all he touched. Health and healing, order and enrichment he produced in everything he undertook. Nothing but the best would satisfy him."



**During his career Dr Salter delivered over 7,000 babies.**

**He owned 2,696 dogs, 2,132 of which he bred himself. There were 44 different breeds and champions of six sporting breeds. He won 611 prizes in 40 years.**

**His first shooting licence was taken out in 1860 and from 1865 - 1925 his "bag" totalled 62,504 head of 104 varieties, including 11 wolves.**

**From 1888 to 1931 Dr Salter was awarded 1,400 prizes and awards for exhibits from his garden and hot house.**

**Seven of his servants between them were with him for a total of 240 years.**

**He kept a diary throughout his life which eventually ran to eighty volumes. These were destroyed in a Zeppelin raid on Chelmsford during the First World War and only a summary of them survives.**

# Our 'Vigorous' early Essex Ancestors

Prior to the Romans much of Essex and part of Suffolk was occupied by a tribe called the Trinovantes, possibly meaning "the vigorous people."

Being so close to Europe and trading regularly with their continental neighbours it is probable that the Trinovantes were the only people in Britain who were aware of Caesar's plans to invade. This was an opportunity they were quick to exploit, sending ambassadors to the Romans in Gaul assuring good relations in the event of a future Roman takeover of Britain. They promised to surrender to Caesar and beseeched him to send back their leader, Mandubracius, from the continent.

Mandubracius the exiled king of the Trinovantes, was regarded by Caesar as the most powerful of the British monarchs, but his father having been killed by a neighbouring tribe, the Catuvellauni, he had been forced to flee to the continent to seek Caesar's protection. Accordingly he joined Caesar and accompanied him on his second expedition to Britain in 54BC.

Soon after the invasion Caesar's legions defeated the army of Cassivellaunus near Wheathampstead and they were

forced to surrender trusting to Caesar's mercy. He demanded hostages as a guarantee for their future good behaviour. Once the hostages had been delivered to him in Kent, he moved his forces back to the continent where they spent the winter of 54-53BC.

Prior to departing he issued a stern warning, charging the Catuvellauni to do no hurt to Mandubracius or the Trinovantes. Caesar never returned to Britain, but the fear he instilled assured an uneasy peace for some 60 years.

Some time between 25BC and 15BC Mandubracius was succeeded to the throne by Addedomaros who moved the tribes' original capital from Braughing near Hertford to a new site on the east coast which he named Camulodunum which means 'the fort of the war god Camulos.'

He in turn was succeeded by Dubnovellaunus who ruled for several years before being overthrown by the Catuvellauni in 9AD. In that year the Roman general Varus lost three legions in the Teutoburger Forest. The situation in Germania became so serious, and the Romans so heavily committed to defending their borders

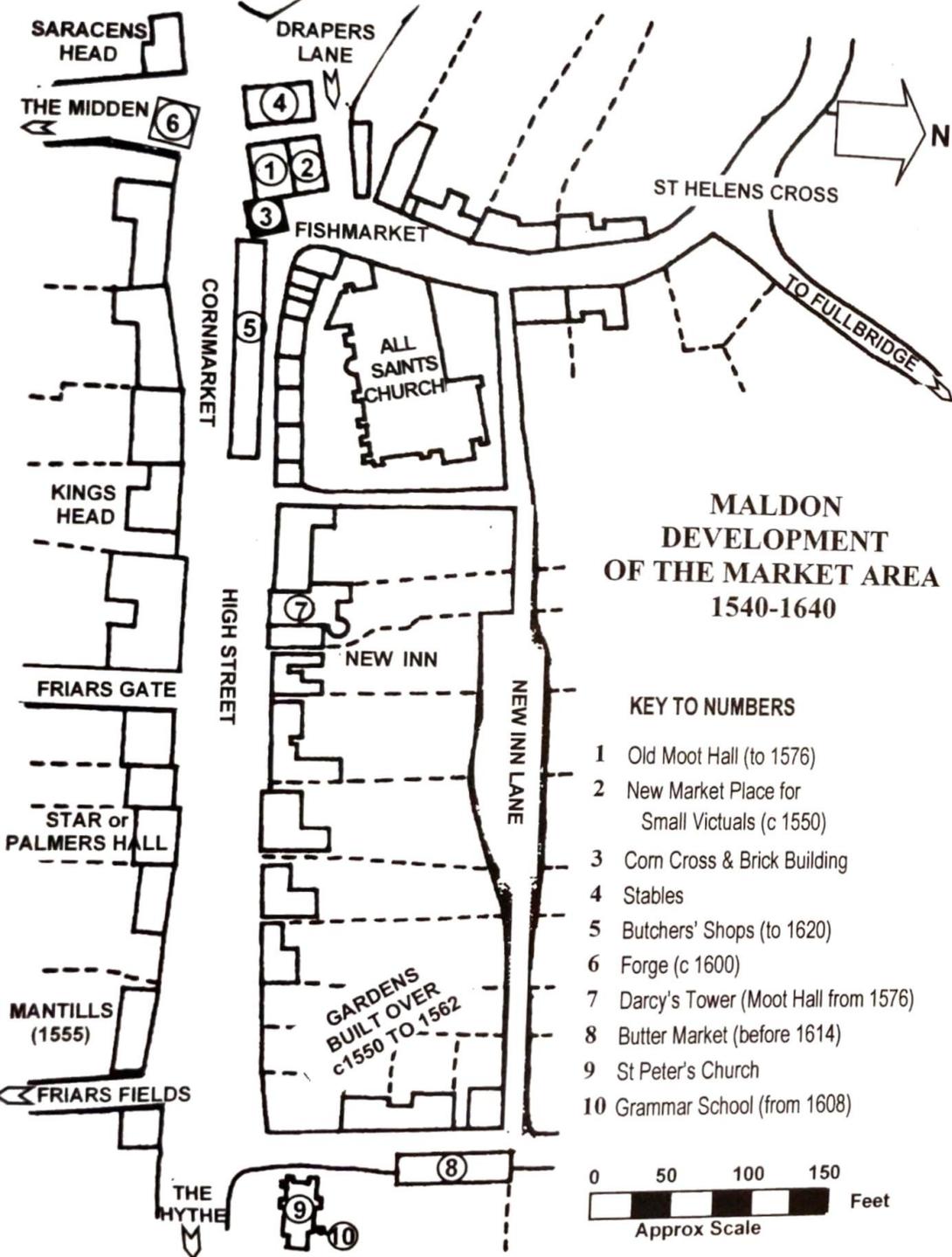
in Europe, British interests were neglected.

The Catuvellauni under Cunobelin chose this moment to attack and capture the Trinovantian capital at Colchester.

It was not until the Roman invasion of 43AD and the permanent occupation of Britain, that Colchester, Camulodunum, was wrested back from the Catuvellauni.

The town then became the site of the first Roman Legionary Fortress in Britain, and was later to become the first Roman *colonia* in the province. Both establishments were self-administrating and had a large proportion of the original Trinovantian territories allocated to them.

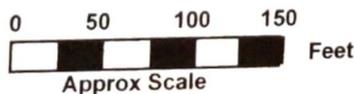
In 60AD, the Iceni under Queen Boudicca rose up in defiance of their Roman masters and began the rebellion that was to change Britain under the Romans. The Trinovantes probably joined the revolt because of the Roman failure to keep their promise and force the Catuvellauni back to their own territory. In addition Trinovantian tribal lands had not been returned to them, coupled with the fact the Romans were



**MALDON DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARKET AREA 1540-1640**

### KEY TO NUMBERS

- 1 Old Moot Hall (to 1576)
- 2 New Market Place for Small Victuals (c 1550)
- 3 Corn Cross & Brick Building
- 4 Stables
- 5 Butchers' Shops (to 1620)
- 6 Forge (c 1600)
- 7 Darcy's Tower (Moot Hall from 1576)
- 8 Butter Market (before 1614)
- 9 St Peter's Church
- 10 Grammar School (from 1608)



Based on reconstruction by Dr W J Petchey

# The Ration Book Diet

First printed in "CHOICE" magazine April 2006 To whom all due acknowledgements are made

When VE-Day finally came in May 1945, Britain was a very different place from the country it had been in 1939. Six years of war had taken their toll on the fabric of the nation. In many cases the effects were far reaching in terms of Britain's social, economic and demographic characteristics. But if there was one good thing to have come out of the war then it was food rationing: the war left us healthier as a nation than we had ever been before or have been since.

Rationing was introduced because, in the Thirties as now, Britain consumed more food than it could produce. Because Merchant Navy ships carrying food would be a focus for enemy action, Britain had to cut down its reliance on food imports.

The wartime diet was not actually as austere as had been feared, as campaigns to encourage people to grow their own food gathered pace and convoys from the United States and Canada brought new types of food such as Spam and soya flour.

In 1939 the "Dig for Victory" campaign was launched, ensuring that every available piece of land, private or public, was given over to growing fruit and vegetables. The national diet became

Heavily dependent on home-grown produce and, by 1941, consumption of meat, fish, poultry, oils and fat had been reduced in favour of home-grown cereals and vegetables. About half of the national diet was made up of cereals and potatoes.

This emphasis on fresh fruit and vegetables ensured the wartime diet was healthy. Sugar intake was also reduced, although there was plentiful use of saturated fat.

Potatoes, rich in vitamin C and carbohydrate, grew easily in Britain and became central to the wartime diet. In 1937 Britain had imported almost 250,000 tons of potatoes but by 1940 it was entirely self-sufficient, and ministers encouraged people to eat three-quarters of a pound every day.

Potato Pete, a cartoon character who appeared on posters and cookery books, was created by the Ministry of Food to encourage people to eat more potatoes. It worked, and by the end of the war potato consumption had increased by 60 per cent.

Another healthy, but on the whole unwelcome development was National Wheatmeal Flour, introduced in 1941, which used more of



grow their own flavourings, such as mint, chives, parsley, sage and thyme to flavour soups and stews. All of these - especially vitamin C rich parsley - had the useful by-product of being important for health too.

the wheat than white flour. The production of existing brands of wholemeal bread such as Hovis and Allisons continued, but could now only be made under special licence. The immediate consequence was the introduction of the National Loaf which had an unusual texture and did not keep so well, so although it was much healthier, it was not generally popular.

In 1944, recognising that much of the nation's food had become bland, the Ministry of Food encouraged people to

In the 60 years since the end of the war there have been many lifestyle changes. Most of us are far better off materially than our wartime predecessors, but this has not necessarily led to better health. The two most common causes of death in the UK are heart disease and cancer, and it is estimated that around a third of these deaths are linked to poor diet.

In 1939 many people on low incomes were prone to malnutrition, now it is more likely to be obesity. During the war exercise was a necessity for most people, just to get to work or the shops, now it is something we opt to take.

A major difference between the wartime diet and the 21st century version is also the availability of fast food, which is high in fat and low in nutrition.

So although the main components of the British diet are much the same - bread, milk, meat and potatoes - it is relatively low in fruit and vegetables compared to wartime, and we also eat less fish now than we used to.

Despite the fact that fresh vegetables are packed with vitamins, minerals and fibre, consumption continues to decline. Instead of buying traditional British greens and root vegetables we tend to turn to imports such as courgettes,

## Haddock and chive fishcakes - wartime style

- 1 lb poached and flaked haddock
- 1 lb potatoes
- 3 tbs finely chopped chives
- Fresh breadcrumbs
- 1 oz cooled melted butter
- Seasoned flour

### Method:

- 1 Remove any bones from the haddock and set aside. Peel, boil and mash potatoes and allow to cool.
- 2 Mix potato, fish and chives together and season well with salt and pepper.
- 3 Divide the mixture into eight and shape into rounds. Roll in a little seasoned flour, brush with cool melted butter and cover with a layer of breadcrumbs.
- 4 Bake at 180°C / Gas mark 4 for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Alternatively fry in a little oil until golden brown.
- 5 Serve with fresh potato salad.

corn on the cob and mangel-tout. So despite all the additional knowledge and experience we have gained since the war, our choices are not particularly well-informed. But there are encouraging signs: healthy eating is regarded as an important part of everyday life and not just something we do to lose weight. There is also a growing awareness that eating well involves buying good, fresh food, not the over-priced and over-prepared foods often labelled 'healthy' from the supermarkets.

# WAT TYLER

## ... and his Revolting Peasants!

**We've all heard of the Peasants Revolt, but how many know about its causes and what (or should I say Wat) really happened?**

### THE STORY SO FAR ...

The Black Death which swept through Europe from 1348 to 1350 killed over one third of the population of England, striking particularly hard at the the poorest and most vulnerable members of society - the peasants. Surprising as this may seem, this was not all bad news for the survivors of the Black Death because it left many manors with a shortage of people to work the land - and the ruling aristocracy were not about to get their own hands dirty.

Previously many peasants had been obliged to work for free on church land, sometimes up to two days per week. This meant that they had little time to work their own earth and were unable to grow enough food for their families. Peasants wanted to be free of this burden which made the church rich but them poor.

Feudal law stated that peasants could only leave their village if they had their lord's permission, but many land-owners were now so desperately short of labour that they began to actively encourage peasants from other manors to leave the villages where they lived to come and work for them. Naturally many peasants seized this opportunity and began to vote with their feet, moving to other less restrictive manors. In some cases those who remained were given their freedom and even paid a small wage in order to get them to stay.

The peasants soon realised the power of 'supply and demand' and for once, that they held the whip hand. They began to re-evaluate their worth and subsequently began to demand higher wages and better working conditions.

This movement of labour upset the whole Feudal System which had been used to tie peasants to particular areas. Ironically this undesirable movement between manors was being encouraged by the very lords who were meant to benefit from the status quo.

Not surprisingly the government, comprising mainly of land-owning Bishops and Lords, appalled at such a display of independence being shown by their serfs and vassals, passed a law to limit any such pay rises.

In 1351 the government introduced the Statute of Labourers stating; no peasant could be paid more than the wages paid in 1346 (ie. those in existence prior to the Black Death); no Lord or master could offer more wages than those paid in 1346; no peasant could leave the village he belonged to. Disobedience could lead to serious punishment.

In addition the government needed extra revenue to support its long and drawn-out war with the French, so in 1380, Richard II introduced a poll-tax which obliged everyone on the tax register over the age of fifteen to pay one shilling (5p). It was the third time in four years that such a tax had been imposed.

One shilling might not be a great deal of money to a Lord or a Bishop but was a significant amount to the average farm labourer! If they could not pay in cash, they must pay in kind, with their tools or seeds, both of which were

essential to the survival of a farmer and his family. This unjust tax was levied on everyone regardless of the ability to pay.

### THE CRISIS DEEPENS

In May 1381, a tax collector arrived in the Essex village of Fobbing to collect the hated poll tax. The villagers took exception to his demands and promptly threw him out!

The following month, the badly-advised 15 year old King Richard II sent soldiers to enforce his tax demands, but they were met with the same unceremonious treatment and they too were thrown out! The villagers of Fobbing now organised themselves and many other villages joined them.

On 2nd June, in what appears to have been a well organised and co-ordinated uprising, the peasants, joined by supporters from all corners of the southeast of England, marched on London to plead for the withdrawal of the poll-tax. In addition they called for the abolition of serfdom, tithes, game laws and for the right to freely use the forests.

They did not blame the young King Richard for their plight, their anger was aimed instead at his advisors - in particular the Archbishop of Canterbury, Simon of Sudbury, and John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, both of whom they believed to be corrupt.

Villagers from north of the Thames, primarily from Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk, converged on London via Chelmsford. 120 Essex villages were involved though it is not known just how much support came from Maldon. Richard Proudfoot of Bradwell was later accused of threatening to kill John Gerveyn of Maldon unless he joined the rising and John Preme was decapitated in Maldon on 10th June, presumably because he opposed one side or other in the dispute, but apart from Cressing Temple which was attacked and set on fire, little else about the revolt is recorded in this district.

Peasants from south of the Thames, comprising mainly of Kentish folk, first attacked Rochester Castle and then Canterbury, see of the hated Simon of Sudbury, before setting off for London.

More than 60,000 people are reported to have been involved in the revolt and not all of them were peasants: soldiers and tradesmen as well as some disillusioned churchmen, including the "mad priest of Kent," John Ball, also took part. At some point Wat Tyler from Kent became the recognised leader of the uprising. Their rallying cry was the rhyme "*When Adam Delved and Eve Span - Who was then the Gentleman?*"

As the peasants marched on London Wat Tyler asked for discipline in order to present

a united and peaceful protest. However, maintaining control of such a crowd was difficult, added to which there were the usual trouble-makers who were bent on mischief rather than orderly protest.

Groups of peasants left the march to attack buildings which housed government records, burning them down and destroying tax records and registers. They also removed the heads of several tax officials who objected.

### LONDON

Arriving at London they entered the city without resistance, the gates having been left open by sympathetic locals.

King Richard offered to meet the peasants' leaders and Wat Tyler's men camped at Blackheath to await the meeting, however due to the large crowds the king could not land at Greenwich and was unable to keep his appointment. Frustrated rebels attacked the Marshalsea prison and Richard beat a retreat back to the safety of the Tower of London.

Wat Tyler now lost control of his followers. Many fell foul of the demon drink, looting and murder were reported to have taken place. It is known that a number of foreigners were among the dead. In particular the peasants targeted their hatred at the lawyers and priests of the city. They plundered Lambeth Palace, burned books and furniture

cont ➤

then joined the London mob. Together they made their way to Fleet Street and broke open the Fleet prison. According to one report they;

*"fell on the food and drink that was found. In the hope of appeasing them nothing was refused them ... They destroyed several fine houses, saying they would burn all the suburbs, take London by force and burn and destroy everything"*

The Savoy Palace, home of the King's uncle, the unpopular John of Gaunt, was burned to the ground with much of its contents being deposited in the nearby River Thames. Worse the Tower of London was now put under siege.

In an attempt to prevent further trouble, the King met the peasants at Mile End on 14th June and agreed to their demands. He asked that they now go home in peace which some of them did, but for those besieging the Tower the violence now escalated.

The King had advised Simon of Sudbury, to seize the opportunity to escape, but no doubt believing himself safe within the Tower's walls, he stayed. It was a mistake which was to cost him his life. England's foremost stronghold was taken without opposition, the gates having been left open and the draw-bridges down! Courtesy no doubt of some sympathetic locals.

In the Chapel of St John the shouting rabble came upon

Simon of Sudbury, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Robert Hales, the Lord Treasurer, plus two others. They were at prayer before the altar, but this did not save them - they were dragged away from the chapel, down the steps and out of the gates to Tower Hill, where traitors were normally executed. There they were beheaded, one after the other, and their heads stuck on pikes to be carried in triumph around the city. The King spent the night in hiding, fearing for his life.

#### RICHARD MEETS WAT

The following day, 15 June 1381, King Richard again agreed to meet with the rebels at Smithfield, at the suggestion of the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Walworth, who wanted to get the mob out of his city. Richard granted further concessions, but at this point Wat Tyler either became too arrogant or simply made a mistake. As he turned his horse its tail was displayed under the nose of the King's horse.

The Lord Mayor became incensed at this perceived insult. He knocked Wat Tyler from his horse and as he lay on the ground one of the king's squires stabbed him in the stomach, killing him. Wat Tyler's head was later cut off and displayed on London Bridge.

It is not clear how Richard talked himself out of this little predicament, it must have been good. One account says

that he addressed them with the cry "*I am your king, I will be your leader. Follow me into the fields.*" Whatever he said it must have been good as it resulted in the peasants dispersing and returning home.

By the end of summer 1381 the revolt was over and John Ball hanged, drawn and quartered in the presence of King Richard. Other leaders from both Essex and Kent met the same fate. The remaining rebels were cornered in Billericay where they were either killed or captured.

Needless to say Richard did not keep any of his promises arguing that they had been made under threat and were therefore not valid in law. The Poll-Tax was withdrawn but the peasants were forced back into their old way of life under the control of the Lord of the manor.

As for King Richard II he attempted to rule by appointing his favourites to positions of power, but the Lords Appellant tried and convicted five of his appointees for treason. In 1397 Richard had three of these Lords Appellant arrested and coerced Parliament to sentence them to death and banished another two.

Deposed in 1399, Richard was murdered while in prison, the first casualty of the Wars of the Roses. He was 32 years old.



## ST. CEDD'S CHATLINE

By Liz Willsher

We are now well into the summer season and enjoying some warm, but not very sunny weather.

Since the museum opened in early April the behind-the-scenes work has continued to accelerate. The St Cedd's team have had a busy time of late, maintaining the important task of accepting and processing donations and loans, but also tackling a few extra jobs which, together with other committee members, have kept us on our toes.

One thousand copies of a new leaflet to publicise the museum have been printed and distributed in the last two or three weeks - quite a task, hopefully they will have the desired effect.

The St Cedd's male ancillary group, the Chippendales, now known as "Cogs-r-Us" have unusually continued their work into the summer season. The large gear wheel (the cog) outside the museum has been painstakingly stripped of its peeling paint and is shortly to be repainted. There has also been ongoing maintenance of the yard to present a smarter appearance. More information on the history of the "cog" will appear in "*Penny Farthing*" soon.

Back in the St Cedd's office we have acquired a new filing cabinet which has facilitated the transfer of all photographs and photographic related archive to a more accessible location. Along the way each folder has been cross checked with the records to ensure the contents are in the correct place.

Interesting accessions recently received include a souvenir programme for the opening of the new Embassy cinema in 1936. The booklet is in good condition apart from the silvery foil cover, which is deteriorating and requires careful storage. A copy of the programme is now on display in the cinema exhibit at the foot of the stairs in an eye-catching red cover.

The donor was a Grammar School contemporary of our accessions officer Judy, who was very pleased to have correctly recalled the former pupil's maiden name. A good test of the grey matter at our time of life!

A large collection of interesting paperwork has been recently received and placed on display; a slipper bed pan from steward Betty MacDonald for the Maldon Health Display, which instantly prompted a discussion amongst ex-members of the nursing services as to the pros and cons of various kinds of bed-pans! An electric clock from the 1940's was donated and has been placed on the mantelpiece in the 1940's living-room.

Nice collections of photographs and documents have been received from nearby Tiptree, and not so nearby New South Wales in Australia, from ladies with Maldon connections.

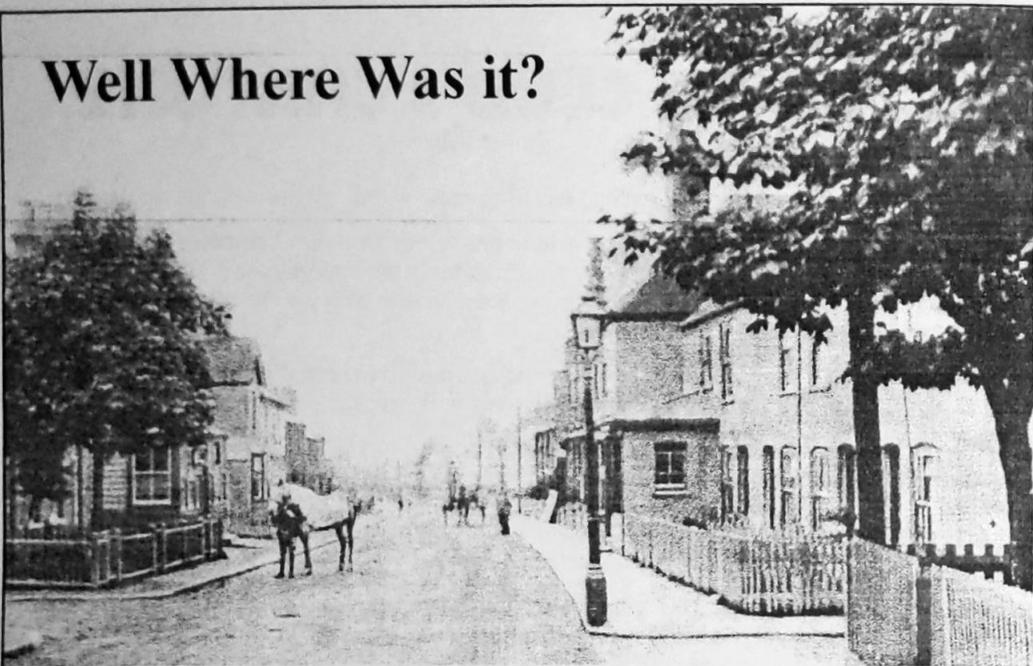
Please look out for the bric-a-brac sales planned for the August Bank Holiday Monday and Heritage Open Weekend, all dependent on the weather, outside the museum. The team are always pleased to receive donations of good quality items for sale and have a regular session of sorting and pricing, when time allows. Please contact a committee member if you have anything for the sales, as we hope to hold them regularly to boost income.

It has been a busy year so far for St Cedd's and at the museum, and looks to continue that way with events in September and October coming up (*see page 1*) as well as the important routine tasks.

For the remainder of the season please bring your family and friends to visit the museum, there are always new displays each year, alongside the old favourites.

Did I hear someone say that we must start planning for 2010 soon?

## Well Where Was it?



This old photograph of one of Maldon's streets a century ago evokes an age of peace and tranquility, but can you tell where it was taken? A clue - it is no longer a road without traffic or parked cars. Answer below.

## OUR VIGOROUS ESSEX ANCESTORS

Continued from page 10

appropriating vast amounts of land around Colchester to accommodate retired soldiers. Little wonder the Trinovantes were sympathetic to the Icenic cause.

Sadly, although they took part in the capture of their old capital, Camulodonum, in 61AD and helped massacre the Roman population, the rebellion was to have disastrous results. They suffered the same fate as the Icenic in the ensuing conflict.

Yet, despite their roll in the rebellion, within 15 years the Romans had forgiven the

Trinovantes enough to grant them local self-government as a *civitas* with a new capital, Caesarmagus, at Widford, near Chelmsford.

After that the Trinovantes vanish from the pages of history until medieval romances linked the tribe with the names of Brutus

and Corineus, mythical founders of Britain and Cornwall, respectively.

**NOTE:** the name Trinovantes is also spelled Trinobantes. The names of the British Celtic tribes are those assigned by Roman commentators, and not necessarily those employed by the Celts themselves.

### Answer to Well Where Was it?

The picture at the top of this of Wantz Road was taken from the High Street End with Wantz Chase on the left and America Street on the right. The name Wantz is believed to be derived from the High German "gantz" - the pointing hand, the four ways.



## ELMS FARM, HEYBRIDGE



The next time you drive down the A414 by-pass, spare a thought for what lies beneath the new Elms Farm housing estate directly in front of you before turning right to TESCOs. For under the hundreds of houses which now occupy the site there lie the remains of a once thriving Iron Age settlement the home of some of our earliest ancestors. (See also article "Our Vigorous Early Ancestors" page 10 in this issue).

Elms Farm is located on the western edge of Heybridge, north-west of Maldon at the head of the Blackwater estuary. Between 1993 and 1995 a total area of twenty one hectares was investigated out of a total area of twenty nine hectares being threatened by development. This site was to become one of the largest and most ambitious archaeological excavations this country has ever seen.

The site was originally thought to be a Roman town and port. However, excavations demonstrated the existence not only of a large Roman settlement and ritual complex, but also an important Iron Age settlement and succeeding Saxon occupation. The archaeological evidence revealed many different aspects of the people who lived, worked and died there. It was largely occupied by local Britons and provides a fascinating insight into the lives of ordinary folk at the

time of the Roman conquest. Substantial settlement began in the late Iron Age, about 50BC onwards. Life would have revolved around local agriculture with arable farming being the main occupation. From the frequent finds of animal bones discarded in pits, it is known that cattle, sheep and pigs were reared. Changes in animal husbandry occurred during the Roman period, with greater emphasis on cattle and less on pigs. The villagers were largely self-sufficient - there was evidence of a wide variety of craft activities, involving bone, wood, leather, spinning and weaving.

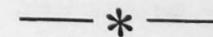
The excavation produced a substantial body of data. Material dating to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, early and middle Iron Ages was found in isolated pockets across the site. It is clear that these had survived by chance and, being fragmentary, were not easy to place in context. Bronze Age funerary and settlement evidence was better preserved.

The late Iron Age saw the beginning of the major phase of settlement and, possibly, its greatest spatial extent. The layout of the settlement was established in this period with the street plan and land divisions continuing into the Roman period.

The origin of a temple also belongs to this phase of the site as does much evidence for metalworking. These features were found to underlie Roman finds and it is probable that the Iron Age site was somewhat larger than later phases.

Evidence recovered from the Roman period suggests that the site differed little from its late Iron Age predecessor. The temple complex was added to during the Roman occupation, but the street plan and major land boundaries saw relatively little change. However there was no evidence to support the earlier claims that it had once been a port.

Although relatively few Saxon features were found, those that were provided evidence for the continued occupation of the site into the fifth century and appeared to indicate continuity of settlement. Occupation of the site does not seem to have continued beyond the end of the fifth century when the inhabitants appear to have deserted the settlement to move south of the River Chelmer and into the town of Maldon, presumably to escape the constant flooding of the area and to gain the security of a more easily defended location.



# The Bardens of Maldon

by Dick Swann

This article was first published in 1978, in Essex Countryside magazine, to whom all acknowledgements are made.

**Father and son, James and Charley Barden, played a significant part in cycling racing in the days when the sport was all the rage of the country.**

The Barden family of Maldon were as colourful as any of the many thousands of better known historical families that go to make up Essex history. James Barden, who served as a Bengal Lancer from 1864 to 1875, was a British Army athletics champion, winning the 100 yards in 10.4 sec., and the quarter mile run in 49 sec.

When he returned home to England he settled at 80 Mill Road, became a noted athletics coach, and a staff writer on the famous *Sporting Life*. He was, at various times, groundsman at the Fulham Cross Athletics Grounds; and when he took over the Kensal Rise Bicycle Track in North London, he was the first man ever to experiment with cement surfaces for bike-tracks.

As track manager he took on a groundsman named Sam Wisdom in 1892; the two made a fine team of workers, and soon the "National Athletic Grounds", as the track was somewhat grandiosely termed officially, became the mecca of the top London promoting clubs. This Sam Wisdom was the grandfather of Norman Wisdom, the comic actor.

Barden and Wisdom foresaw

the potential in this new racing surface and soon it was attracting attention world wide. Before other tracks copied, the Barden track was known among racing cyclists and the media as *the cement track*. Records from 440 yards sprints to 12 hour endurance races were broken on it, by such top-line performers as Percy Brown and George Padbury, the long distance expert. Other cycling tracks of the time were all cinder surface and hard going in wet weather.

Barden was asked to design tracks abroad; including the famous Copenhagen track, for the rich Dansk Bicycle Club, in 1895. Besides being well paid, James received a special silver medal from the King of Denmark who took him to the Palace to view his yachting trophies.

Naturally with such a background, James Barden's son, Charley, was involved in bikes and racing from an early age. His first bike was a solid tyred Humber in 1887, when he was thirteen years old. He assisted his father at Kensal Rise, sweeping the track and cutting the grass in the centre.

When he was sixteen, he joined the local Kensal Rise Bicycle Club, using a "Pennell" machine turned out by a small maker in Paddington's Harrow Road.

His father, spotting his son's talent enrolled Charley into



Charley Barden cycling on the Crystal Palace Track. Photograph from "The Life of Charley Barden" by Dick Swann.

the world-famous Poytechnic CC, and bought him a "Swift", one of the best racing bikes of the time.

Thus, while his father was laying tracks at Putney, Northampton, Weston-super-Mare and Denmark and Sweden, his son was travelling the country with the Poly team, winning first-category races at Norwich, London, King's Lynn, Folkestone, Eastbourne, etc. Money was flowing into the household, plus fame and goodwill.

Curiously enough, Charley Barden never won a national amateur title; but when he turned professional in 1896, he "clicked" immediately. From then on he was usually in the first three in the national professional championships. He himself considered his two best victories to be the mile in 1896 at Newport, and the five miles in 1897 at Exeter.

His attempts at winning the world professional title resulted in two second places, being runner-up to Frenchman Bourillon in 1896 at Copenhagen (on the same track his father had built the year before); and runner-up to German Arend in Glasgow in 1897.

He did, however, collect the world record for the ten miles in 1896, and made "a mint of money" racing on the indoor wooden surfaced tracks that existed in those days at the Westminster Agricultural Hall, Olympia, the Westminster Aquarium (all in London), and Sheffield, Birmingham, etc. Indoor bike-racing was "all the rage" in Victorian times, and not only in this country. They were promoted throughout the winter, and the same riders then went on to the outdoor tracks during the summer.

Charley also journeyed to France, Germany and Italy; with a trip to Australia being the highlight of his foreign travels. On this occasion he earned the name of "Crackerjack" from the Aussie fans, who were delighted with his habit of coming around the leaders to win from a seemingly hopeless position, in the final stages of the race. This trip took place in 1898; he was later offered a racing visit to the States, but never took advantage of the offer.

One item from the American "Cycling Gazette" of 1898 will be of interest to bike-riders the world over, as it seems to indicate the origin of the "dancing" method of accelerating, or "jumping" as it is called in cycle-racing slang:

*"Barden's method of starting, which he utilised in the recent big Australian races, opened the eyes of the cornstalks, and it was apparently new to them. Charlie has a reputation for getting away from his mark quickly, and immediately the pistol fires he stands upright, and literally 'runs' the first twenty yards on his pedals. By this style of starting he is generally at top speed within thirty yards."*

Added to his well-known ability to "come again" up the home straight, it can be readily appreciated that most riders of the period didn't relish meeting Barden in the eliminating rounds; a man who can start fast and finish fast was no mean sprinter.

On one visit to France Charley was jeered at by some of the locals, who ridiculed his long unbroken record of sprint and short-distance wins. They told him: "You can only win the Boy's races!" Charley promptly challenged the French long-distance man, Constant Huret, to a fifty miles match. Charley won, "wiping the floor" with his rival. The French crowd (this was at the famous Velodrome d'Hiver in Paris), were so incensed at seeing their idol Huret, beaten, that they pelted Charley with sticks, orange peel and anything else that came to hand.

An ugly scene was only averted when Huret went up to Charley, and in typical French fashion, kissed him soundly on the cheek! This particular event was held on 10 January, 1897, and Charley received 10,000 francs for the win - a goodly sum in those days.

To list all his victories would be impossible, but when Charley was asked his most satisfactory victory he named the International Sprint at Herne Hill in 1893, when he was still an amateur. His victims on that occasion included Louvet (France), Medinger (Australia) and the "Flying Dutchman" Scheltema-Beduin. The wooden surfaced track was always a favourite of Charley's.

On another occasion he lapped the field in a ten mile race, fell heavily when his front tyre blew, got up, re-caught the field, and still won. The English magazine *Cycling* called this feat "sensational".

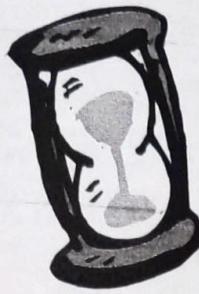
On what he considered his home tracks at Romford, High Beach and Wood Green, Charley was almost unbeatable for years, at any distance from one mile to fifty miles, paced or unpaced.

Even before he retired, he took up coaching like his father had done before and his charges included E H Ainsworth (Essex County Champion 1894-5-6-7), "Acky" Ingram (six times British national amateur champion) and several more who achieved international fame.

After his wife died, Charley went to live in Leicester and later married again. When he died in 1962 his passing was not even noted in Essex papers, but the Leicester press carried several stories about the man who "beat the world at bike racing".



# TIMES PAST



Here are a few news items from a hundred and fifty years ago which you may have missed the first time around.

1859

There were some 5,000 Thames barges operating along the east coast. Winter 1859/60, 32 gunners in punts shot 704 geese with one fusillade at Heybridge Basin.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, probably Britain's greatest engineer, died.

Oregon became a state of the US.

Queensland separated from New South Wales with Brisbane as its capital.

Lord Palmerston became Britain's Liberal Prime Minister.

Dickens wrote "A Tale of Two Cities".

Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection".

Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, was born (died 1930).

George Eliot wrote "Adam Bede".

The world's first oil well was drilled at Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Jerome K Jerome (author) was born.

Karl Marx wrote "Critique of Political Economy".

Georges Seurat the French artist was born (died 1891).

"Dixie" the marching song and unofficial anthem of the Confederacy during the American Civil War was written by Daniel Decatur Emmett.

The opera "Faust" by Gounod was first performed in Paris.

The steamroller was invented.

The first practical storage battery was invented by R L G Plante.

Bunsen and Kirchhoff began experiments with spectrum analysis.

Frenchman Charles Blondin crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

Work on building the Suez Canal began and was completed 1869.

German publisher Karl Baedeker, whose travel guides were internationally famous, died.

A local advertisement from the early 1900's



Telephone : MALDON 135

ESTABLISHED 46 YEARS

## G. H. Tunmer & Son

HOUSE FURNISHERS

CABINET MAKERS :: UPHOLSTERERS  
AND FRENCH POLISHERS

*Repairs in all Branches by Experienced Workmen*

REMOVALS. GRAMOPHONES and RECORDS

**2a Market Hill, Maldon  
Essex**

# Maldon District Museum Association

Registered Charity 301362

**President - Mrs Julia Peel**  
**Vice Presidents - Mr L.F. Barrell**  
**Mrs B Chittenden**

## Committee - to A. G. M. 2010

|                              |                                |   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Chairman</i> .....        | <i>Paddy Lacey</i> .....       |    |
| <i>Vice-Chairman</i> .....   | <i>Margaret Simmonds</i> ..... |    |
| <i>Hon. Secretary</i> .....  | <i>Jenny Sjollema</i> .....    |    |
| <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> .....  | <i>Ann Hamilton</i> .....      |    |
| <i>Membership Sec.</i> ..... | <i>Christine Steel</i> .....   |    |
| <i>Committee</i> .....       | <i>Judy Betteridge</i> .....   |    |
| <i>Committee</i> .....       | <i>Molly Middleton</i> .....   |  |
| <i>Committee</i> .....       | <i>Liz Willsher</i> .....      |  |

---

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

---

Museum Reception Telephone No. (01621) 842688  
(Answerphone when museum unattended)  
[www.maldonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.maldonmuseum.org.uk)  
E mail: [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)  
Web site: [www.maldonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.maldonmuseum.org.uk).

---

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

---

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