

THE PENNY



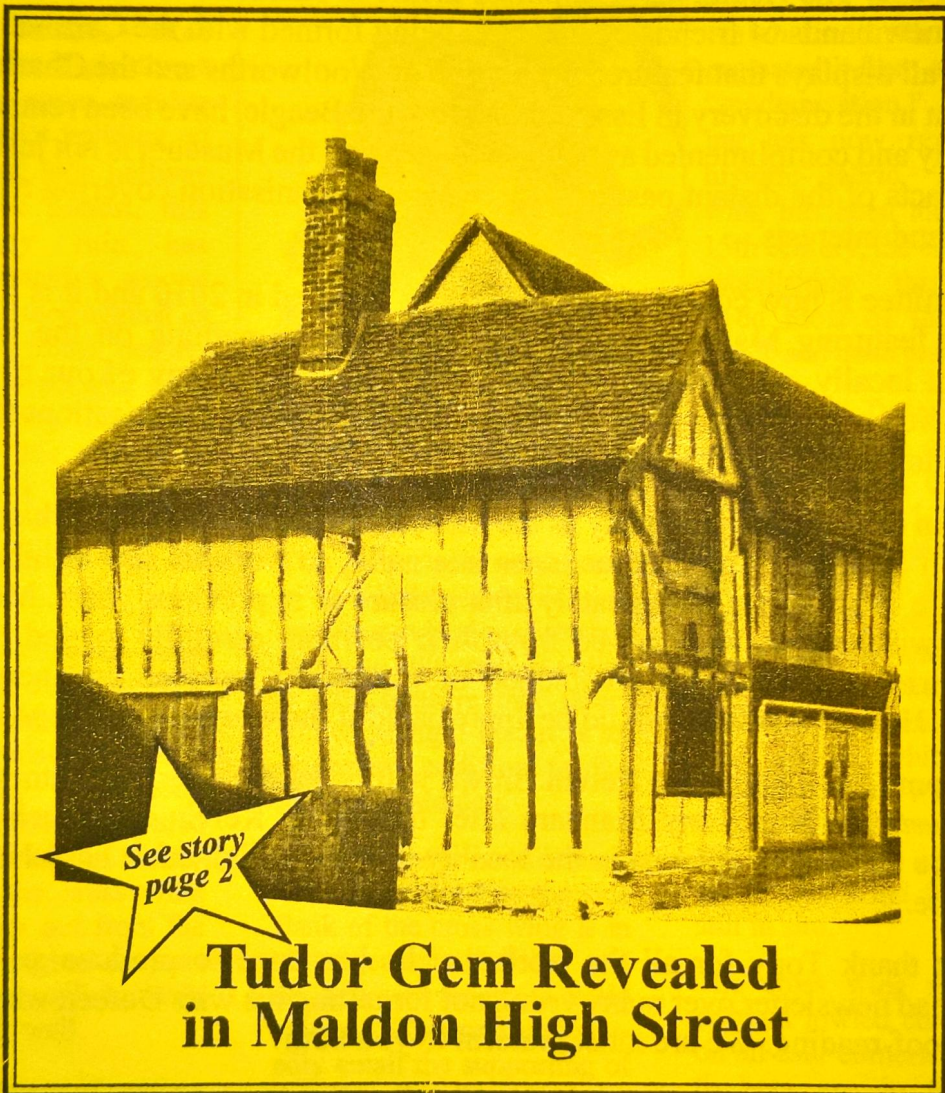
FARTHING

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The Maldon District Museum Association Newsletter



Tudor Gem Revealed in Maldon High Street

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I am writing this in the last week of the Museum's opening for the 2009 Season so there are no actual figures, but the general impression is that it has been a most successful one. The Health and Happiness theme in Maldon has been much appreciated with new bands of friendship and help being formed with the Carnival Committee. The wall displays that featured the demise of Woolworths and the Charles Darwin connection in the discovery in Essex of his ship, the Beagle, have been remarked upon particularly and complimented as being evidence that the Museum is not just involved with artefacts of the distant past but is a dynamic organisation covering modern day concerns and interests.

The committee is now considering what will be featured in 2010 and it is likely to be a display featuring Maldon Ironworks Limited and something on the Girl Guide movement locally, who will be celebrating its centenary. If any of our members or friends have any mementos or recollections of either of these organisations the display team would be delighted to learn of them.

There is an element of uncertainty as the Museum is scheduled for refurbishment and decoration externally and in some cases internally, so work on new exhibitions will not be able to be started immediately after closure as in previous years. Many of the artefacts will have to be removed from their position, carefully logged, listed and stored during the work. On completion they must be replaced and new displays mounted. Help at this stage would be appreciated if there are any willing volunteers.

Finally some excellent news, Kelvin Brown will be taking over the editorship of the *Penny Farthing* from Tony Mandara after this issue. Kelvin has much journalist experience and a great interest in the locality. We are delighted to have his help and experience.

We must thank Tony for all the work that he has done to produce an attractive, widely-read newsletter over many years, not forgetting his wife Doreen who has done all the proof-reading. We are most grateful to you both!

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all connected with our very special Museum!

Paddy Lacey

Penny Farthing is dependent upon your contribution.

All articles, items, photos, comments and letters are welcome:
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TUDOR GEM REVEALED IN MALDON HIGH STREET

see photo front cover

How many of us have walked down Maldon High Street and failed to notice number 144, the derelict building on the right hand side halfway down? To be honest, this forlorn, ugly ruin has hardly warranted a second glance as it leaned against its next-door neighbour desperately trying to prevent itself from collapsing into the street. Yet if this abandoned shop could talk what a story it could tell of the changes it has seen during the past 500 years.

It was built during the reign of Henry VIII for a wealthy merchant as his home and business premises. When it was originally constructed, the building had a jettied front where the top half of the property on the cross wing was set further out from the bottom. The original projecting beams can still be seen from the flank wall.

After many years of neglect and just in time the premises are now being restored by the Rochford & South-East Building Preservation Trust and they have exposed and retained as many of the original beams and timbers as possible. Already number 144 is no longer an "ugly duckling" but a magnificent addition to our town landscape.



The original jettied front of the Tudor cross wing of 144 Maldon High Street now being exposed

This property is turning out to be a little gem which has mostly survived undisturbed for some 500 years. It is like a little treasure that rarely comes to light and it is an important addition to the history of Maldon.

However there is still much work to be done as the side flank of the cross wing is in a dangerous condition and needs urgent repairs to avoid collapse. This will undoubtedly entail the supporting of the mid rail on the side elevation for removal of the metal lathe and cement render to expose the sole plate, which has probably failed and the corner posts at the rear will need extensive work to stabilise them.

Following the removal of much of the 20th century facade and poor repairs,

which in truth probably protected it from even worse "modernisation," the building has now revealed its historic fabric. The cross wing has been identified as 15th century, the crown posts establishing this period. Even most of the original wattle and daub is still in situ.

An original Tudor door has been discovered along with its mortise head, once again hidden behind a later addition and which retains much of its red ochre. The timber of the cross wing is close studded and without doubt would have been exposed with lime mortar infill panels, which would have been lime washed. On the first floor, once again hidden behind a metal lathe the arched wind braces are still in situ.

The cross wing retains its original jowled corner posts on all four corners. The roof timbers are in the main entirely original although the roof has been re-tiled but with its original peg tiles.

The main hall has been identified as a 15th / 16th century medieval Tudor hall which would have had an open fireplace in the centre of the building and a high table at the cross wing end.

ALE AND REVENGE

By John Wade

(This article first appeared in The Essex Countryside magazine in 1991 to whom all due acknowledgements are made)

In the mid-18th century, politics and corruption went hand in hand.

It was the ambition of the British people to be properly represented in Parliament. As it was, the House of Commons allowed no reporters and sat behind closed doors. It possessed boundless authority and represented only itself.

Seats were bought and sold in the open market. As much as £4,000 was being paid for a seat and in the House of Commons, votes were bought and sold for money, titles or preferment.

An office was even opened at the Treasury for the bribery of the members; and £25,000 was said to have been spent upon obtaining votes in a single day.

William Pitt declared that the House represented not the nation but 'ruined towns, noble families, wealthy individuals and foreign potentates.

The King himself even used his royal revenue to purchase seats and to buy votes. Not one person in 50 throughout the country had the right to vote.

In the general election of 1768 a price for a small borough was £4,000. In fact,

Oxford offered to sell its seat for £7,500 so that the corporation's debts could be settled. Even when the mayor and aldermen were committed to prison for this act of corruption, it still did not deter them from continuing to bargain.

Maldon did not escape the excitement. In the general election of 1761, Bamber Gascoyne of Barking was chosen to be one of the two MPs for the town. He was an extremely hard worker and in 1762 was appointed to the Board of Trade.

For reasons unknown, the Maldon Corporation rejected Gascoyne and supported the candidature of John Huske at the election held on 26 April 1763.

When the votes were counted John Huske had 441 votes and Bamber Gascoyne managed only 226. Gascoyne was livid. He immediately sought revenge. He looked for a way in which the Maldon Corporation could be dissolved so that a new corporation could be created with men who would support him.

His chance came in 1766 when the election of the town's bailiffs proved to be unconstitutionally conducted.

Bamber Gascoyne instituted legal action against the corporation and the case went before the Courts of Exchequer and Kings Bench. Bamber Gascoyne won the case.

In 1768 Maldon had her charter withdrawn and the corporation was dissolved. All functions of local government were passed over to three parish vestries, All Saints', St Peter's and St Mary's.

The situation was serious. Because Maldon was now without her charter, there would not be any new freemen of the borough. The loss of the charter though did not prevent the borough sending two representatives to parliament.

When the 1806 elections arrived there were only 63 freemen who could cast their votes. If action was not taken it would mean that in a few years' time there would be no one left alive to elect the town's two MPs.

Maldon had now been without a charter for 38 years.

Looking back, Maldon could be proud of her past. It was the oldest borough in Essex. Its first Charter of Municipal Privileges dated from 1171, 18 years before Colchester's of

1189. Harwich's Charter dated from 1320; Saffron Walden's from 1549; Sudbury's from 1558 and Chelmsford was not to become a borough until September 1888.

In 1246 Henry III called a meeting of the barons of England in London. This meeting was called a Parliament and was the first occasion on which this term was used.

Maldon had retained two members to Parliament from the year 1329.

Before 1832 brought major parliamentary reform, Essex had only four hustings for elections. These were the county town of Chelmsford and the three boroughs of Harwich, Colchester and Maldon.

To enable Maldon to receive a new charter and to be able to select new freemen of the town again, a Charter Club was formed under the leadership of Benjamin Gaskell. In 1807, 45 of the surviving freemen asked Joseph Strutt, one of the town's MPs, to help restore the charter to the Borough of Maldon.

Mr Strutt consulted the Privy Council and was seen by Spencer Perceval, the Prime Minister. After consideration the royal assent was given by George III for Maldon to have a new charter. It was sealed on 8 October and delivered to Maldon on 15 October, 1810.

The new charter brought

privileges and liberties to the town. It made the town a body corporate giving it the right to elect its own mayor and capital burgesses, a recorder and the all important water-bailiff who protected Maldon's fishing rights and trade.

James Tomlinson became the new mayor. James Trower, together with Edward Shaw and John Crosier - all aldermen - became keepers of the peace. They were required to provide a prison for offenders.

The town was also given the privilege of being allowed a market on a Saturday and a clerk of the market was appointed. The corporate body was to provide a suitable person to be the coroner.

All land boundaries were to be carefully marked out and recorded, together with the town's water boundaries. The charter clearly stated who were entitled to become freemen of the town.

Maldon was also permitted to have three fairs in every year. On the eve and on the day of the Blessed Virgin Mary and two days following; on the eve and day of St Giles and one day following; and on the 13th and 14th days of September. It was laid down that the mayor could serve office only once in three years.

To mark the day of the restoration of the charter, a medallion was struck giving details of the momentous event.

In the evening the new corporation feasted at Maldon's Blue Boar Hotel. The town's people were not forgotten, either. They made their way to Potman's Marsh. There to greet them were gallons of strong ale, a roasted bullock and much entertainment.

This revelry and rejoicing over what we might see now as bureaucracy and the tedium of local government, was typical of 18th century politics.

Elections in Maldon were a time of merriment. The cost of the food and ale was met by the election candidates. The market area would draw the crowds as booths were erected to record the votes.

The freemen would arrive by trap or on horse-back wearing their scarves and coloured cockades - blue for the Tories and orange for the Whigs. The cheering would be heard throughout the town.

As the crowds struggled to get a glimpse of their favourite man, only freemen were allowed to enter the booth. It was tradition for the new freemen to vote for the candidate who had helped him to secure his admission.

A freeman of the town received his status by either gift, purchase, inheritance or marriage to a freeman's daughter. Many freemen lived outside the town's boundaries and only came in on election days. This practice was legitimate.

— * —



ALL that remains today of Bicknacre Priory is a solitary nine metre arch set in the middle of a field with nothing to indicate its original grandeur or importance.

The Priory began life as a Hermitage sometime in the late 11th century and was granted to the Black Cannons in about 1170 by Henry II. This gift is believed to have been made as part of the atonement made by Henry after his knights murdered Thomas Beckett in Canterbury Cathedral. The Royal Charter granted the priory approximately 100 acres of land, and the rents collected from the properties on the estate made it a wealthy establishment.

Richard I continued to grant the priory Royal Charters and latter Henry III gave it a licence to hunt in the nearby forests for hare, fox and cat! The cat fur was used by the clerics to trim their robes.

As with most monasteries and religious houses of the time,

Cat Hunting by the Black Cannons of Bicknacre

Bicknacre Priory offered hospitality, lodging and refreshment for pilgrims en route to Lees Priory. At one time there was a path from the Priory, through Bicknacre and Springfield to Lees Priory, but it fell into disuse after the bridge at Sandford was swept away in 1850.

Originally the Priory was called Wodeham Priory, but became known as Bicknacre Priory sometime after 1235. The Priory continued to function for the next two centuries and in 1289 King Edward I and his Queen, Eleanor of Castile, made a visit of devotion to the priory.

However, by 1450 the number of cannons had declined substantially. The cause may have been due to the several outbreaks of Black Death, particularly the one in 1348 when two million people (one third the population of England) are estimated to have died. During this outbreak half the population of Essex became victims. Particularly badly affected were the clergy who, due to their ministry to the afflicted, were brought into closer contact with the disease and consequently were at greater risk than most.

The Priory became neglected and its last Prior died there in 1507, after which the Monastery was dissolved and the Priory reverted back to the King. Two years later the Priory Convent of the Hospital of St Mary, in Bishopsgate, London, was granted a Royal Licence to unite Bicknacre Priory with their hospital, and this union continued until the Dissolution in 1536 when the church was stripped of its plate and valuables.

Even the lead from the roof was melted down using the timber from the Priory to fuel the furnace. Once the building was exposed to the elements it quickly became a ruin and local people took the stones to repair the roads.

What was left of the estate was given by King Henry VIII to Henry Polstead who sold it to Henry Mildmay. His son sold it to the Barringtons of Tofts in Little Baddow and it remained in their family until 1793. After that the estate was sold to John Strutt of Terling.

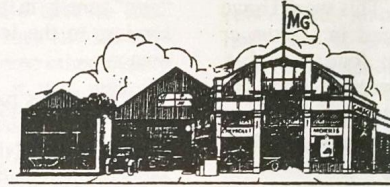
A description of the Priory in 1786 said it would need to be rebuilt because it was so dilapidated.

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Maldon Garage Ltd.

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Complete Overhauls.

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High-Pressure Greasing and Washing Service.

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and
Spital Road, Maldon
Phone 89.

Head Office and Works:
Station Road, Maldon. Phone: 49.

This advertisement from the 1938 Town Guide shows Maldon Garage Company based in Station Road. The building flying the MG flag is still in existence and is now the home of Maldon Glass. What was "Tecalemit" High pressure greasing and washing? Note also the telephone numbers: 49 for the Head Office and 39 for the Spital Road Branch - no eleven digit phone numbers to remember then.

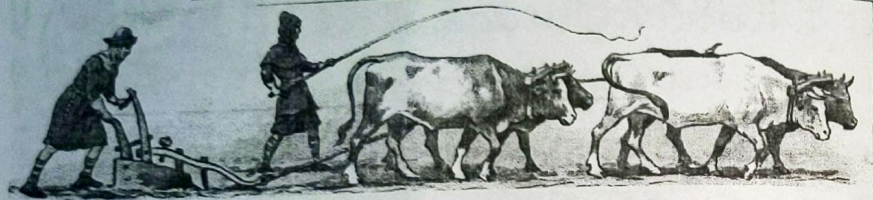
CHEERS!

and
congratulations

As well as being open on August Bank Holiday Monday, Maldon Museum held a Bric-a-brac stall outside the entrance to raise funds towards its running costs. Organised by Liz Willsher, and ably assisted by Judy Betteridge who priced up the sale items, plus Jenny Sjollem, Margaret Simmonds, Paddy Lacey and his grandson Christopher on sales, the stall met with outstanding success taking the magnificent sum of £186.41. In addition the Museum and shop took another £118.60 - a total of £305.01 for the day! The Saturday and Sunday were also busy so all-in-all it was a very profitable weekend.

Congratulations and thanks to Liz and all helpers, volunteers and stewards, not forgetting all those who donated sale items. It is intended to hold further Bric-a-brac sales on future Bank Holidays so Liz and her team would be very pleased to receive any saleable items you may care to donate, please contact her for details (telephone 01621 852756).

A PEASANT'S LIFE



Ever wondered who or what your forefathers were? It would be nice to be able to trace our roots back to the nobility, but for most of us it is much more likely that our ancestors were peasants or serfs.

So what were their lives like and could we have borne their lot? Let us assume for a moment that you were a villein living on some lord's manor in the 14th century.

As a villein you would have been a feudal serf entirely subject to the lord of the manor by law, which stipulated that you were "unfree" and not permitted to leave the manor without your lord's permission, so could not leave to seek better prospects elsewhere. But take heart, you would not have been at the very bottom of the social pyramid. You were not a slave to be bought and sold, but simply a peasant and base born.

Indeed a villein was more fortunate than many people and would have leased a small-holding, anything from 15 to 70 acres, a substantial

amount of land by today's standards. This would have been divided into three or more plots (one of arable, one of grazing and one rough pasture). In addition as a villein you would have had the right to take reasonable amounts of timber and brushwood from the woods and common lands for firewood, farm tools, house and farm repairs and for building fences.

In addition you would have had a garden and a house built of oak framing with wattle-and-daub infill, plastered walls and a thatched roof. This cottage would probably have been about twenty feet by forty feet, divided into two bays, single storey but with a loft in part of the roof. It would have had a central hearth, but no chimney so smoke had to escape through the eaves or the gaps in the thatch. In addition to the cottage there would have been several farm buildings for storage and livestock.

This property was yours for life and your sons had the option to retain it when you

died, provided they paid the "rent" usually in the form of services to the lord of the manor.

The "rent" was paid in two ways; by maintaining the whole property (similar to a modern full repairing lease), or by carrying out various duties for the lord. These services were expressed as so many half-days of work on the manorial lands, and might consist of ploughing, reaping, carting etc. In an ordinary week the villein might be obliged to work for two or three days from sunrise to about 3 p.m. This might represent as much as 40 per cent of his time all before he could begin work on his own smallholding.

If your smallholding was prosperous you might be able to convert your "services" into paying a cash rent instead, or send a son to discharge your duties rather than going in person.

In a few cases, instead of being a farmer, you might have practised a rural craft such as a blacksmith or wheelwright. In which case,

part of your "rent" might be paid in cash rather than services.

As mentioned earlier it was illegal to move elsewhere without your lord's permission. If you did try to relocate you would have to abandon your property and home without any recompense.

You would have to flee, either to seek another tenancy in some other manor, although it was unlikely that another lord would want to accept you, or live in a town. If you could manage to live there, undiscovered by your former lord for a year-and-a-day you would become a free man - for what that was worth!

In those cases where your lord sold or gave away part of his lands then you would still retain your smallholding but your obligations and duties would be transferred to the new lord.

A peasant would not normally be obliged to travel around so your life would be limited to within your own village and manor. The exception would be those villeins who held "riding" tenancies which obliged them to deliver produce or run errands or on their lord's behalf.

Life expectancy depended very much on your status in society. A lord who

was fed the best of everything and lived a life free from hard physical labour and with access to the latest medical knowledge could expect to outlive a peasant who was only just scraping a living. Nevertheless as a villein there is no reason to suppose that you would expect to die before the age of fifty. Women of course ran much greater risks due to the dangers involved in childbirth, but we do know of women who lived into their eighties and men who lived into their nineties.

Accidents at work were a constant worry and infant mortality was particularly high. Added to which, disease, plague, vitamin deficiency, famine and the consumption of large quantities of alcohol (the water was mostly undrinkable) all affected mortality rates.

As for holidays, every Sunday was a "Holy-day" when you would be expected to attend church, but apart from Sundays and other Holy-days there were other non-working days caused by external events. For instance bad weather or waiting for favourable conditions might prevent ploughing or other farm work. It has been estimated that a ploughman would probably only work for 250 days per year. In other words a villein could expect to have approximately 115

days a year, or every week-end and Holy-days free.

You would not have had an annual summer holiday, quite the reverse in fact because at harvest time you would be working from sunup to sundown to get the crops in. January and February however, would often be spent by your fire-side as little could be done during the winter months.

As for food, that was very much in your own hands - you would grow it! If you could not grow or catch it you could not eat it. Your staple diet would consist of coarse bread, meat, fish and ale. There were no fancy sauces and wines for the peasants.

Archaeological evidence suggests that large quantities of beef were eaten, presumably the older plough animals once they had reached the end of their usefulness. Soups, stews, porridges, bacon and eggs, onions, leeks, pork, cheese, fruit and vegetables have all been identified, but there was a general medieval dislike of vegetables and salads. Honey, your only sweetener, would have come from your own hives. Herbs were often used as was salt but pepper was a rarity due to its very high cost. Potatoes, the staple component of most modern meals, were unknown.

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Your clothing would have been made from home-spun cloth and linen - no cotton or silk. Special occupational clothing might sometimes be worn such as a rain-proof ploughman's hat or special gloves. In very wet and muddy places you might even have worked in the nude because clothing was not waterproof, even hard-wearing, leather garments could not keep out rain.

In a normal year you would be expected to give one tenth of your produce to the church and various dues would go to your lord (on top of your obligation of "service" to him). For example you might give one pig in every eight, several measures of corn or a dozen eggs at Easter.

In return the Church was expected to provide moral guidance, services at birth, marriage and death and to help in times of adversity; your lord provided military protection, economic guidance, local administration and justice.

In theory priest and lord were supposed to help in times of distress, and some did do so, but in practice any financial assistance they might offer was of little use during a famine - those with food reserves were loath to exchange them for money. Only if you had saved produce from previous harvests could you survive and salvation was in your own hands.

Your only opportunity to turn surplus produce into cash was at the local market where commodities were supposed to be traded openly; fairs were held less often but attracted more people. The sale of any manufactured goods outside guild control could only be done at a fair. The cash you might raise would have been essential to pay those taxes levied by the king.

Of course those who wish to sell had to pay the lord of the manor for the privilege, unless the market was anciently established as a "wake". The lord in turn had to pay the Crown for the right to hold a market and employ a reeve and witnesses to supervise fair trading. Neighbouring towns could not hold their markets on the same day, each had its own day in fairness to their owners.

Your working day would be from sunrise to about 3 p.m., and your main meal of the day would be eaten then, after which you would work on your own farm until evening. After supper or when you could not work outside because of bad weather, you would still be busy as you sat by the fireside, repairing shoes, making clothes, tools or harness, flitching arrows etc. You might even tell stories or play primitive musical instruments.

There were more active amusements on Holy-days such as archery practice, maypole or other dancing, watching mystery plays at the church, bowling, skittles or other rustic games.

You might prefer the attractions of the alehouse and risk getting drunk to finish the night confined in the stocks. More serious crimes would be referred to the next local court (usually monthly) where all petty crime was dealt with. The most serious crimes would be referred to the Hundred Court or County Court. The machinery of justice was complex but relatively fast; those awaiting trial were kept in prison, but once found guilty were either fined or executed. The shadow of the gibbet hung over all misdemeanours.

Like every householder you were responsible for the maintenance of law and order. Every ten adult males formed a tithing with a leader and as a householder you would have to keep weapons in your home and may have duties to keep the highways safe after dusk each day.

You would not have been able to read or write, but would have learnt farming from your parents and neighbours. If you did want to learn Latin in order to read or write then you would have to enter a mon-

astery, but would first need your lord's permission to leave his manor.

Your survival very much depended on your own efforts. Even a minor illness or injury meant time lost in running your own farm as much as on your lord's land. In cases of serious illness or disability you were at the mercy of others: an established farmer with sons would probably survive otherwise he would have to throw himself upon the charity of his lord or the nearest monastery.

Medicine and surgical knowledge were poor and confined to the infirmary of the monastery, usually little more than prayers. A simple injury could easily lead to death and in the case of progressive disease there was no hope. Cancer was probably much less prevalent than today, but the lack of even basic hygiene made childbirth or any kind of surgery extremely dangerous.

The most deadly disease was the Black Death. It first appeared in England in 1348 as Bubonic Plague and raged until 1350, converting to Pneumonic Plague as it spread. It reappeared in 1360, 1369 and 1375. It is estimated that by the very end of the 14th century perhaps only a quarter of the population survived!

As for old-age and retirement, forget it! There was no such thing as a pension. If by some miracle you managed to survive the Black Death you might have been able to negotiate favourable terms with your lord, simply because he would have so few tenants left to farm his lands and be desperate to keep you, even if you could no longer provide a full service to him. Of course if you had sons who could take over from you then you might be able to "retire" whenever you chose, otherwise you kept working until you dropped.

So do you think you would have survived the hardships your ancestors did? Make no mistake about it, you come from hardy stock, after all they survived poor diet, back-breaking and long hours of work, lack of adequate clothing and housing, no medical care only home potions and remedies, no education, unable to travel or work where they wished, exploited by their lord and the Church, little opportunity to retire and the very real and ever present threat of the Black Death.

On the brighter side, you may of course have been a lord. In which case your life would have been considerably different. Which would you prefer?

ENGLAND'S OLDEST MAN came to MALDON By Derek Banks

Having just read a book entitled "Kitchener's Last Volunteer", I thought one or two facts from the book might be of interest to Penny Farthing readers.

Henry Allingham, who died in July aged 113 years was not only England's oldest man, but the last surviving veteran of the First World War. Born in Clapton, London on 6 June 1896, as a child he lived in Walthamstow. At the outbreak of war he joined the then Royal Naval Air Service which later merged with the Royal Flying Corps, and survived the Battle of Jutland, the Somme and Ypres.

As to the local interest, I quote Henry's own words from his book "We were married on 21 March 1918 at St Chad's, the parish church in Chadwell Heath, Essex. I wore my uniform while Dorothy was in a day dress and carried a posy of spring flowers. After a celebration drink we made our way to the railway station to catch a train to Maldon in Essex. There we booked a room in the White Swan for three nights". (Given his age when these words were written, it is possible that he means the Swan pub as it is today).

Mr Allingham also sailed regularly from the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Bumham-on-Crouch.

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THE PIONEERS OF OSEA ISLAND

"The Daily Graphic" Monday, February 1, 1904

A VISIT TO THE RELIEF WORKS

"Well, I'm glad to see you, gentlemen, I'm sure, though it's not the kind of day to come to Osea Island; and you can see how it is for yourselves - a man comes to us on a day like this, and his heart sinks into what is left of his boots and he wants to go home." so said Mr Ocoomore, the foreman, who represents Mr Charrington and the Mansion House Relief Works on that lonely island on the coast of Essex, in the Blackwater River, when the DAILY GRAPHIC artist and reporter knocked at his door on Saturday afternoon.

A storm of wind and rain had beaten on them during the whole of the drive in the dogcart of the postmaster of Heybridge; they had had to wait three hours for the tide to go down, so that the island could be reached by the gravel road laid across the vast expanse of dreary mud flats; they had heard at Maldon that when they got there they would be up to their knees in mud and the weather got worse and worse as the day went on. It was not an alluring prospect, certainly, and the experience sank so deeply

into the mind of the artist that he has recorded it in a portion of his sketches.

The time of waiting was profitably spent in a call upon Mr Spurgeon, who is the agent of Mr Charrington, the owner of Osea Island at his office in Maldon High Street, and a few moments' conversation with him showed how real and how important a matter was Mr Charrington's scheme for the development of the estate by the employment of those East End Londoners who cannot find employment elsewhere, and whose families are in immediate need of relief.

The men who are allowed to go to the relief works at Osea Island must have been householders or roomholders for twelve months in the East End; their case must be one in which immediate relief is necessary. The Mansion House Committee, having received such a man's application sends him to Osea for a month. There he has free board and lodging, for which he has to work at road-making, ditching, or whatever else he is wanted to do - but no money (except sixpence a week, which he cannot spend on drink, because there is none

except water on the island). To his wife goes 10s 6d a week, and to each of his children 2s. That is the reward for his labour.

There are men who don't think that is good enough, and they go back from Osea after a few days, strong in their determination to continue the contemplation of a starving or semi-starving family. But the majority stay their month, some longer. One case there was recently of a man who complained that he only got bread and butter for breakfast. "Why I can get bread and butter in London without working," said he. "Then you are a lucky man," said Mr Spurgeon, "and you'd better go back to London." and back he went by the next train. Those who stay the month, and are favourably reported on by Mr Ocoomore, are allowed a few days absence to see their people and then may return.

The rules and regulations drawn up by Mr Charrington for the government of his island are framed on philanthropic lines. The first runs thus :- "No house or other building upon the island shall be used or occupied as licensed

premises for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquors, either to the public or members of a club or society, and no house shall be used as a shop or business premises unless sold as a shop plot."

The second is as follows :- "No iron building, caravan, circus, show, roundabouts, fair, or other structure shall be erected, placed or held upon any plot, nor shall any noisome, noxious or offensive trade be carried out upon the same."

Mr Charrington's main idea is that the island can be made a pleasure resort for the people of Maldon and elsewhere without the attraction of drink. The whole mile and a half by a mile which constitutes the Island of Osea will be temperance land. In addition to this, he has determined that the work to be done on the island shall be done by those who want work and cannot get it, and to whose families the relief thus afforded will help to keep the wolf from the door in these days of depression and distress. That is, briefly put, the whole scheme of the relief works of Osea Island.

The rain and wind were still

beating and blowing when the hour of low water arrived, and the journey over the mud flats of the Blackwater could be undertaken. The postmaster's pony splashed gallantly through it, and after following the line of black piles, draped with seaweed, which marked but the road, the island was reached, and all the trouble and discomfort forgotten when once the acquaintance of Mr Ocoomore was made.

"Come in and have some tea; I'm just about making it," said he, "and when you've got warmed up a bit we'll go out and have a look round. You'll find the going very soft." So we had a very pleasant quarter of an hour in the cosy little frame-built addition which Mr Charrington had made to the old farmhouse which stands in the middle of the island, and where he himself occasionally stays.

Mr Ocoomore is foreman, postman, superintendent and dispenser of castor-oil to the relief works colony; he wears big boots and a woollen jumper. He has a shrewd face with a firm jaw, and a twinkling eye; and he is ready at any time of day or night to settle any question which may arise.

He took us out into a sea of mud to the huts where the men lodge; roomy huts with bunks one above another, as on ship board, with a stove in the centre, and pretty good bedding; then into the dining-tent, where some of the men were finishing off what seemed a good substantial meal; and then to the great new hut, which is being prepared for the accommodation of 120 more men.

That is proof enough of the success of the experiment, but the best proof, as Mr Ocoomore rightly judged, lies in a letter which had been sent to one of the men now on the island. The man, weary apparently of work and well doing, had written to his wife in the East-end to say he was coming back. She replied, begging him to stay where he was, for the money which she got regularly "came in very handy"; and went on to give him a long list of their children's clothes which she had been able to get out of pawn. That indeed tells the story of the relief works of Osea Island better than anything else can do.



A legal pearl

George Clarke has traced the history of a unique souvenir from his home town of Burnham-on-Crouch



"THIS is of no use to me, take it and see what you can find out about it". Said the late Dr. Ben Light who had been a doctor in Burnham-on-Crouch for a number of years.

He handed me what I took to be the jawbone of a garfish, bearing the inscription: "Burnham-on-Crouch cause gain'd March 9th 1808".

This unusual memento had been handed to him by his father, to whom it had been given by; "A Mr Hawkins who was something to do with oysters".

My quest has proved long and at times frustrating, but I am satisfied that at last I have arrived its origin which, it seems, was to mark a successfully fought test case concerning the ownership of oyster layings in the River Crouch.

As far back as the 18th century at least, the oyster industry in the River Crouch proved very lucrative, so it is not surprising that from time to time there have been those who have been prepared to run the risk of unlawful oyster dredging, in the knowledge that there was always a ready market for this aristocrat of the bivalves with its renowned aphrodisiac qualities.

The earliest reference I have concerning oyster poaching is contained in a caution to oyster dredgers issued in June 1789 by Dame Anne Mildmay, widow and relict of Sir Henry Mildmay, owner of a separate fishery in the waters and streams called Burnham River, otherwise Wallfleet, in the county of Essex.

The caution was issued because her Ladyship had received information that "disorderly persons had threatened to enter the said fishery and dredge for oysters" and warned that: "all persons who shall enter into the said separate fishery or any of the waters or streams, and dredge or take away oysters will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law."

It is obvious that this caution did not have the desired effect as in 1806, a similar notice was issued by Messrs Hawkins and Company, oyster dredgers of Burnham, who leased the laying from Sir Henry Mildmay and his wife, Jane. (*Presumably the son of the above Sir Henry, Ed.*)

This caution stated that: "an unlawful combination had been entered into by several oyster dredgers in and near Brightlingsea for the purpose of coming into the said fishery in a large body and by force dredging for oysters therein."

The caution stressed that the fishery was the undisputed

private property of Sir Henry Mildmay and his wife Dame Jane and had been enjoyed by them and their ancestors from the time of Edward I.

The climax came on March 9, 1808 when the important cause *Crush v. Allen*, to try the exclusive oyster fishery of the Burnham-on-Crouch River claimed by Sir Henry Paulet St John Mildmay Bart, came before a special jury at Chelmsford Assizes.

Copies of three records of trials of this same right of fishery in the reigns of Charles I and Charles II were then proved. It appeared from the Court Rolls that various licences to fish in the river, and also leases had been granted from that early period and that annual rents had been paid.

A great number of ancient and respectable people were then called to prove by parole testimony the exclusive right exercised by the tenantry of the Mildmay family in the fishery from a point called Clay Clods, above Farnbridge Ferry, down to Raysand Beacon in the main sea.

Mr Garrow, defending, contended that the river, being an arm of the sea could not be part of the Manor of Burnham and was therefore free and open to the use of the King's subjects. As no grant of the Crown had been set forth, it was clear that none existed and therefore no such legal right could be sustained.

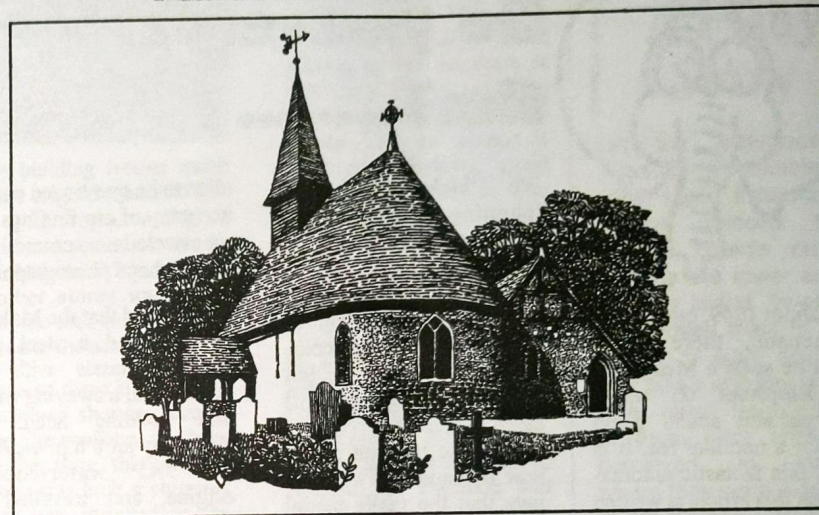
In his reply, Sergeant Shepherd remarked that not one single witness had been called to prove that any owner of lands along the sides of this river, had ever claimed the right to any fishery in the stream that passed the shores on which the oysters were laid. If necessary he could have shown a grant from Edward I and could have proved their title from Richard I on his return from the Holy Wars, but he felt sufficiently strong in the rights of prescription and deemed it unnecessary.

Addressing the jury, Mr Justice Heath said he could never remember an ancient right more clearly and substantially set forth. He trusted it would prevent any further contests and disturbances on the question. The jury immediately returned a verdict for the defendant for nominal damages and 40s costs.

The following week ten men were remanded for trial at Chelmsford Assizes, among whom were six fishermen, bill of indictment having been found against them for committing depredations on the layings in Burnham River.

This article by George Clarke first appeared in Essex Countryside in 1985, to whom all due acknowledgements are made.

Maldon's Historic Churches



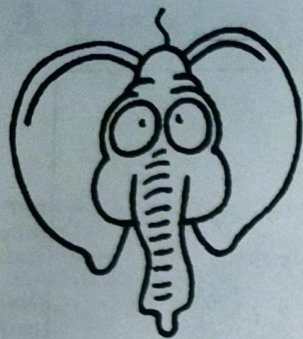
St. Nicholas' Church, Little Braxted

St. Nicholas' Church was built about 1120 probably by Richard de Beames, Bishop of London. Until alterations were carried out in the nineteenth century it was one of the smallest churches in Essex. The church is orientated so that it inclines to the south-east, towards the point where the sun rises on 6 December, St Nicholas Day.

Its walls, approximately 2ft 8ins thick, are composed of flint rubble and pudding stone. The only original Norman window remaining is on the north side of the apse. All other windows have been enlarged over the centuries. Even so, without artificial light the interior is very dark and gloomy, however once the lights are switched on what a transformation is made. The whole inside has been decorated and painted by the Rev. Ernest Geldart between 1881 and 1884. Besides being parish priest, Geldart was also an accomplished artist and architect (he was the architect of St. Nicholas' at Rawreth, near Wickford), and he carried out all of the decoration work and paintings himself. The result is spectacular, and while the ornate Victorian style may not appeal to all tastes and looks somewhat "over the top" for such a small parish church, it is certainly worth a visit - but make sure the lights are on!

The church porch was built in 1535 from a bequest of £4 by Thomas Roberts. His parents are commemorated by a brass in the chancel floor, displaying effigies of William Roberts, his two wives, and five daughters. William Roberts was one of King Henry VII's auditors and the family, who lived in Little Braxted Hall, held the estate for several generations from 1480.

The roof of the chancel is modern but incorporates some old timbers. The 15th century nave has collar beams, purlins and wind braces. From 1730 to 1856 there was no resident rector and the church fell into disrepair. Restoration took place in 1856 when nearly £500 was spent to make the church sound and clean. In 1881 Rev Geldart began his decoration of the interior and in 1884 the church was enlarged by the removal of the north wall, the construction of an arcade of two arches, and the erection of the north aisle, also ornately decorated.



By Len Barrell

Do you remember that

We 'kicked off' by 'phoning friends we considered to be old enough to remember and were amazed at the number who 'had never heard of the elephant' or had completely forgotten it, but were nevertheless in most cases interested. Others were quite brilliant and it was perhaps just unfortunate that the really useful information only came after considerable research from those well down the telephone list ... Names we will treat as confidential for no particular reason.

What we discovered was that in fact Maldon had two mechanical elephants each standing about eight feet high and seven feet long, although no-one seems to recall more than one on the Promenade at any one time. There were others elsewhere, notably Margate, Paington, etc.

They were made in Thaxted, those on the 'Prom' being owned by Peter (Winkle) Williams who also owned amusements in 'The Valley'. He eventually sold them on to George Clear of Latchingdon. Neither of these gentlemen is still

alive to be questioned on the accuracy of our findings, so we welcome corrections and perhaps photographs.

We learned that the Maldon animals had a steel and canvas chassis with an outer shell, a swaying trunk and nodding head, all driven by an 8 h.p. 4-cylinder JAP water-cooled engine, and travelled at from 2 - 12 m.p.h. The 'driver', or should it be the Mahout? sat on its neck. Carried on each side there was provision for four adults and two children or alternatively six children.

One animal was inevitably called 'Jumbo'. One problem was that the 'elephants' had been known to tip over, which caused the cancellation of insurance and the removal of the elephants from active service. When last heard of at least one was bought by an American and sent to Chicago.

This article makes no claim to being complete. If anyone has more information on the Maldon elephant, we shall be pleased to receive it. Details of other such elephants are well covered elsewhere.

TUDOR GEM REVEALED

Continued from page 2

The building retains much of the original medieval hall up to its original wall plate level and sometime late in the 16th or 17th century another storey was added with the roof timbers being raised to the new level.

Some of these timbers are blackened showing that an open fire was once in place. At the time this second storey was built a chimney stack was installed at the lower part of the hall. This was uncovered on the ground floor while removing the 1960's panelling to reveal the most wonderful inglenook fireplace complete with its original timber seating and numerous hooks which would have been used for cooking pots, even the spits were still in situ.

The property was almost certainly built for a family of substance as both the main hall and the cross-wing are of high quality as indicated by the close studding. Timber was expensive, so the closer together the studding the more expensive the property.

The entire building would have had exposed timbers, wattle and daub infill panels, lime render and lime wash over the complete building.

The windows of the original building would have been mullioned, probably without glazing as was the norm at that early period, and the Trust wherever possible would like to re-install mullioned windows, albeit now glazed, back in situ where appropriate.

Maldon Museum has a particular connection with the property in that from 1855 to 1899 it was occupied by members of the Burrell family who were carters running a regular scheduled two-horse-cart twice a week to the *Saracen's Head* in Aldgate, on Tuesdays and Thursdays returning on the following day. F G Burrell, a descendent of the family was a shoe-maker and leather-worker, who from 1919 to 1990 had premises in the High Street, now Sally Green's. On retirement Mrs Burrell presented her late husband's tools to the Museum where they are now on display in the "Maldon General Stores".

The Rochford & South-East Preservation Trust is to be congratulated for clearing up what was an eye-sore and giving Maldon High Street back an important piece of its history.

Without doubt the Trust has the expertise to restore Number 144, and once completed this building should set a standard of how such buildings can and should be restored.

———— * ————

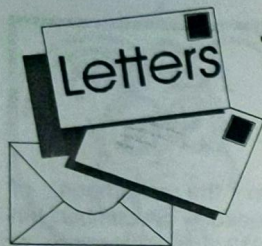
A Fishy Story

On the afternoon of Tuesday September 9th 1913 some fishermen of Maldon noticed some strange objects on the mud by the lower end of Northey Island. Investigation proved them to be a school of eight dolphins, four adults and four young. After much trouble three of them were shot and conveyed to Maldon where they were exhibited at the "Queen's Head" as 'porpoises'.

The two larger ones were each 10ft 9ins in length and estimated to weigh at least half a ton each. Next day the other two adults were secured and exhibited on a trolley at the 'Rose and Crown'.

It was reported in the Maldon Advertiser of September 19th that great interest was shown in them and that a local expert, Robert Eve, demonstrated that they were Bottle Nose Dolphins that were rare visitors to the Blackwater.

Is it possible that the skeleton now on display at Maldon Museum is from one of these creatures? Does anybody know?



Letters to the editor ...

Dear Editor

With reference to your article "Mysteries of Mount Pleasant in the Summer issue of Penny Farthing (Issue 57), as one who should have been in a position to answer some of the queries raised by your correspondent, having lived in Mount Pleasant for several years, I feel slightly useless being unable to offer any satisfactory reply. I have in fact consulted others, several of whom have lived in "The Mount" and they have been equally mystified, the truth probably being that until now they have had no cause to investigate any of the six 'mysteries' raised by Frances Underhill, the seventh mystery being the question of her brother's name which could perhaps have been an encouragement to us 'oldies'. Several ex-residents from 1943 are still alive and interested in any matter since then.

I can however be more positive when it comes to the cottages which, if we are to accept that her brother actually means those facing Fambridge Road, they are not those depicted although the end of number 11 can just be seen on the north end of those printed.

I show below a copy of the scullery ends abutting Mt Pleasant and an example of how one has been made very presentable.

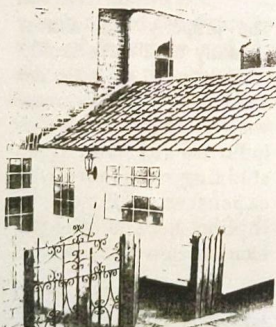
My enquiries have awakened some interesting items, including Mrs Barrell (Snr's) Fire Watchers' residential names but not the duty schedule. I calculate the date as 1943, and list the Mount Pleasant house numbers and names as at that date. The names of those apparently missing had probably 'gone to war'.

- No 1 Mrs Rollison & daughter
- No 3 Mr & Mrs Thorpe, son Tom & daughter Margaret
- No 5 Mr & Mrs Clarke
- No 7 Mr & Mrs Vince
- * No 9 Possibly Mr & Mrs Burton
- No 11 Mr & Mrs Little, son Dennis & daughter Doris
- No 13 Mr & Mrs Bunting & Judy
- No 15 Mrs Hawkes & Baby
- No 17 Mrs Smith
- No 19 Mr & Miss Kent
- No 21 Mr Cyril Curtis, Mrs Tomlinson. Mrs Skeggs, Rita & David
- No 23 Miss Bourne, Mr Moss
- No 25 Mr Mead snr, Mr Mead jnr
- No 27 Mr & Mrs Cooper & baby
- No 29 Mr & Mrs Wiseman, baby son & Mrs Wiseman snr
- No 31 Mr & Mrs F Cooper
- No 33 Mrs Easter
- No 35 Mrs V Seaman & baby Molly
- No 37 Mrs Newman & Mrs Punt
- No 39 Miss Rushen & Mrs Lewin
- No 41 Mr & Mrs Mead, son John & baby Beryl

- No 43 Mr & Mrs Barrell & son Donald
- No 45 Mr & Mrs E Eary & Mrs Leader
- No 47 Mr H Eary & Miss B Eary
- No 49 Mr & Mrs Atherton, Ivy & Mr Burton
- No 51 Mr & Mrs Godfrey snr
- No 53 Mrs Everitt
- No 55 Mrs Mathews, Mrs Hawes, Mrs Jackson
- No 57 Mr & Mrs Canham
- No 59 Mrs Brewster
- No 61 Mr & Mrs Orriss, Gerald, Gwen, Peter, Daphne, Pauline & baby Terence
- No 63 Mr & Mrs Godfrey, Alf, Connie & Joan
- No 65 Mrs Mead snr, Mr & Mrs Mynard
- No 67 Mr & Mrs Firmin
- No 69 Mrs Atkinson, Colleen,
- No 71 Shirley & Jill
- No 73 Mrs Cuthbert, Tom Thorpe

* Positive identification welcomed

Len Barrell



A scullery ends abutting Mt Pleasant showing how one has been made very presentable.

Dear Editor,

I am reading my latest *Penny Farthing* and it's very good as usual.

One small point however ... on reaching page 17 "Well where was it?", I must disagree with the location given for the photograph. It is Wantz Road all right, but I think the turnings left and right are for Dyers Road on the left and Queen Street on the right.

I can see the boarded front and bay windows of the Volunteer Arms pub (now a private house) on the left where the horse is standing

outside and the cottages opposite still look much the same.

Liz Willsher

Dear Editor,

What a delightful photograph in the "Well Where Was It?" section of the last *Penny Farthing*! It is certainly Wantz Road but it is not the America Street / Wantz Chase junction in my opinion.

If it were there would be the sizeable Middleton House, at the time of the photo, known as Mizpah on the right.

I think that the road to the right is Queen Street and that to the left Dyers Road.

The timber-clad building behind the tree on the left is the 'Volunteer Arms' run for 42 years from 1870 by Frederick Brewster and his son, Frederick John. Could it be a Brewster owned horse outside the ale house? This pub closed in 1979.

Paddy Lacey

Editor: Thanks to Liz and Paddy for putting me right. Perhaps it is just as well I am retiring as Editor before I make any more ghastly bloomers.

... and from the editor

Dear Reader,

As reported in the Autumn *Penny Farthing* this is the last issue for which I will be responsible. Having been editing this magazine since the Summer of 2004, during which time I have produced 23 issues or approximately 440 pages of copy, (excluding the Chairman's Chat and St Cedd's Chatline) - the bulk of a decent sized paperback! I must admit that this task has been a labour of love and I have really enjoyed carrying out the research and writing the different stories, however the time has come for me to pass the editor's baton to someone new, who hopefully will bring fresh ideas and a new perspective to *Penny Farthing*.

It is good that we have been fortunate enough to get a volunteer to take over as editor, Kelvin Brown. Unlike myself he is a journalist with a wide experience and, as a 'Maldonian' born and bred, his knowledge of local history, places and people should make the job a little easier.

Before departing I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who previously contributed articles and snippets which were very gratefully received. I am sure Kelvin would be pleased if you would give him your support and continue to send items for consideration for inclusion in the magazine. I would also like to thank my wife, Doreen, who has proof-read and corrected every issue - without her invaluable assistance I would have made even more "bloomers".

So it is best wishes to Kelvin and goodbye from me, and if you have been reading my efforts, Thank You.

Tony Mandara (now ex-editor of *Penny Farthing*)

TIMES PAST

Here are a few local and world-wide news items from two hundred years ago, which you may have missed the first time around!



1809

In June a duel was fought on Woodham Mortimer Common where Ensign Mahon shot and killed Surgeon Lewis O'Hara, both of The 11th Regiment of Foot based in Maldon. The argument was over a game of cricket.

William Gladstone, the future British Prime Minister and statesman was born.

Sir William Hillary lived at Danbury Palace - he was later to found the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Alfred Lord Tennyson the English poet was born.

James Madison became the 4th President of the United States.

Arthur Wellesley defeated the French at Talavera and was created Duke of Wellington.

The Marquis of Wellesley, brother of the Duke of Wellington, was appointed Britain's Foreign Secretary.

Napoleon divorced Josephine (definitely "not tonight" then?).

Abraham Lincoln, the future 16th President of the United States was born.

Washington Irving wrote "Rip van Winkle".

Charles Darwin, the English naturalist, was born.

Thomas Paine the Anglo-American author who wrote the "Rights of Man" died.

John Constable painted "Malvern Hill"

Beethoven wrote "The Emperor Concerto.

The Frenchman Louis Braille, inventor of the reading system for the blind, was born.

The composer Felix Mendelssohn was born.

War between France and Austria. French captured Vienna.



ST. CEDD'S CHATLINE

By Liz Willsher

Following a wonderfully warm September, we are now trying to adopt that strange fashion term of "layering". In other words we need to get our thermals on!

In our last edition I wrote of the approaching outdoor sales which are so valuable in boosting funds. Both the August Bank Holiday and Heritage weekend Sunday sales went well, netting nearly £286 on the stalls. There was also a good attendance resulting in an increase in income inside the museum from sales and donations.

On a personal note, my work was displayed in the museum courtyard for the Art Trail. It was an interesting experience, and valuable from the point of view of demonstrating that the experiment of using a temporary cover could work for other displays or events. Also we took advantage of the loan of equipment from Maldon Community Volunteer Service, which proved most useful.

The accessions duo of Judy Betteridge and Betty Chittenden have been busy recently with a number of interesting donations, the star of the show (apart from the above!) being a beautiful model plough, made at Maldon Ironworks, and donated by Wantz Road ex-resident Wally King who has now moved to Suffolk. The plough, together with a hay-rake and cart (already in the museum), and a good collection of items which are being assembled in the office at St Cedd's will form the backbone of a display on Maldon Ironworks which Paddy Lacey is planning for 2010.

Amongst the other accessions for our photographic and document archive, a collection of items relating to the Battle of Maldon celebrations have been received from John and Sally Why and include what may be the first illustration of sculptor John Doubleday's statue of Brythnoth. Another batch of interesting and locally relevant paperwork and booklets was donated from the estate of George Ginn, including a book written by local G.P. David Cargill entitled "Accidents in the Home", published in 1967. On glancing through the book, in a chapter about the hazards posed to our more senior citizens, I spotted the phrase "going ga-ga" in a section about the mentally infirm. Was this, I wondered, an accepted medical term used at the time?

Accessions officer, Judy Betteridge, recently donated a postcard which she spotted on E-bay, from the camera of Hazletine Frost at Glendale studios in Maldon. The card shows a uniformed man, probably a disabled war-veteran, sitting in front of a stall displaying needlework and holding an item from the stall, maybe trying to get an income from selling the goods. The identity of the man is unknown, but Judy was enticed by the local connection and, as the bidding hotted up, found she had exceeded her budget considerably. However, an interesting addition to the museum archive ... Thank you Judy!

As November 1st approaches (our closing date) we are preparing for a busy few weeks of clearing, protecting, and packing up a large number of displays prior to some renovation work being planned by Maldon District Council for the interior of the museum. I think the term "all hands on deck" will be appropriate at this time.

Wishing everyone seasonal greetings for the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010, from the team at St Cedd's.

Maldon v Thomas Cramphorn

In 1910 the Maldon Borough Engineer served notice on Messrs Cramphorn & Ortwell, owners of a property on Market Hill, regarding the state of the walls of the building which were in a ruinous state and likely to fall, endangering passers-by and the occupants of neighbouring buildings. The Engineer demanded that Cramphorn & Ortwell repair the walls or he would apply to the Justices of the Peace for an order for them to do so. The property in question was the old Maldon Workhouse.

Thomas John Deeks Cramphorn, after whom the Cramphorn Theatre in Chelmsford is named, had, together with his partner Ortwell, originally purchased the property for £2,000, but it had been sadly neglected. In 1909 Cramphorn tried to sell his half-share in the property to Maldon Borough Council for a nominal figure of £500, a considerable loss on his original investment. His intention was that it be used for town improvements or the erection of cottages for the working classes. However, the council would not consider any such deal without the agreement of his partner.

It would appear that agreement was not forthcoming and a settlement was not reached because a year later,

in September 1910, the above notice was served and the remedial works were presumably carried out. There was later an unsuccessful attempt by Maldon Corporation to sell the undivided moiety (shared ownership) of the old Union Workhouse.

Cramphorn was a highly successful Chelmsford corn merchant with financial interests in many other enterprises. He owned numerous properties throughout Essex. According to an auction after his death in December 1912, he owned 18 shops, houses and plots of land in Clacton alone, with additional properties in Witham, Chelmsford, Black Notley and Maldon. The value of his estate was given as £43,000 - a huge sum in 1912.

The trustees of his estate were Octavius Christian Cramphorn of Brentwood, Frank Hicks of Bury St Edmunds, both corn-merchants and Alfred Freeman a Maldon Solicitor.

He left £10 to each of the Freemason Lodges at Chelmsford, Maldon and Clacton for distribution to the poor. Other bequests were made to St John's Church Chelmsford, his servants and employees plus annuities to ex-employee pensioners and family, together with gifts to seven

older employees. The remainder was to be given to Chelmsford Council for the benefit of the Borough or to build a new town hall.

It has been claimed that he made a bequest to Maldon which paid for the Promenade Lodge (now home of Maldon Museum) to be built. However, a study of his will, held in Essex Records Office, makes no mention of any such bequest.

Cat Hunting in Bicknacre

Continued from page 5

A farmhouse had been incorporated into the chapel which was built in the shape of a cross. The nave was the kitchen and the north cross was the parlour where faded paintings could still be seen. In 1720 Reverend Holman described six stained glass windows which dated back to the 16th century, alas now gone.

The early 19th century owner of Bicknacre Priory, Sir Francis Sykes, ordered the preservation of the last of the four tower arches, the others having either fallen down or been demolished. He had a steel rod fitted at the top of the arch to hold it together and tiles put on top to protect it from the weather. It was his foresight which has protected all that now remains of Bicknacre Priory today.

* ——— *

Ad from 1842

£2 REWARD

Great Baddow Association for the Prevention of
Crime, and
Prosecution of Felons.

Whereas some Person or Persons did, last Night or early this Morning, break into the Hen-House of Mr. WILLIAM MUSSETT, at POND LANDS, GREAT BADDOW, and steal and carry away therefrom,

8 YOUNG FOWLS,
4 PULLETS
AND THREE HENS

Any Person or Persons giving Information that will lead to the Apprehension and Conviction of the Offender or Offenders, shall receive the above Reward on application to the Secretary. If more than one Informant the Reward to be apportioned.

Great Baddow, 26th November, 1842.

H. S. GILSON

Solicitor and Secretary.

[DUTTON, PRINTER, CHELMSFORD]

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

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Curatorial Adviser *Nick Wickenden Esq*

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

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