

THE PENNY



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The Maldon District Museum Association Newsletter



The Wizard of Oz - see page three

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I was stewarding on the last Saturday of the 2010 season that proved a quiet session until the last hour, giving me a chance to look at what we have achieved together.

The autumn changes in the Promenade Park have been striking and the Museum with its hanging baskets and steward-attended plant tub still providing colour was playing its part in the making of a most beautiful setting.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this, however, is the statement on the hanging board outside that reads that this 'museum is run entirely by volunteers'. Many of our visitors find this difficult to believe but it is true and must surely be in accordance with current political thinking of the Big Society; nevertheless museums in general us included, live in uncertain times.

A visitor during the week had pointed out that we were displaying flyers for the Motor Boat Museum at Basildon that had failed to reopen this year due to withdrawal of its funding grants. Fortunately we are not dependent on large grants from any source but we must be aware that the district council may not be able to offer their support in the many other ways that we have become accustomed although we know that they are appreciative of what we achieve for Maldon.

Let us hope that we can continue to do this by providing such a marvellous local facility at very low cost to the public well into the future.

Many thanks from me to all our volunteer stewards, to Christine Steel for organising the stewards' rota and to the winter works team, who are today, the first Monday in November, moving in to begin their seasonal work in maintaining and updating the displays ready for 2011.

Best wishes to everybody for the festive season that will soon be upon us.

Paddy Lacey

Penny Farthing is dependent upon your contribution.

All articles, items, photos, comments and letters are welcome:
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Tel: 01621 856528 or e-mail: kelvinbrown @ tinyworld.co.uk

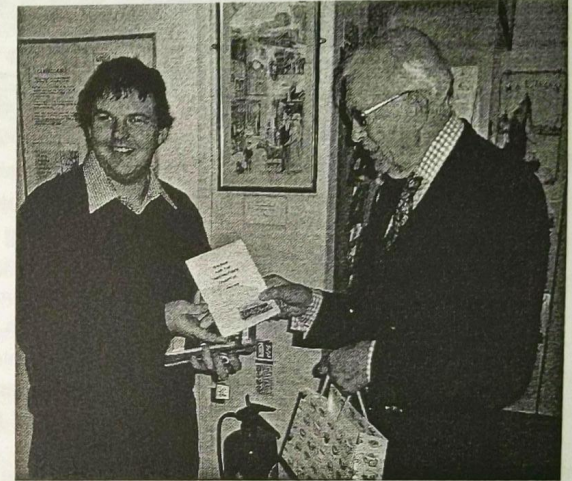
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The Wizard of Oz!

By Paddy Lacey

Earlier this year our membership secretary, Christine, received a request from Australia asking if the correspondent could become an association member. It emerged that Robert Thompson, from whom the request was received, was president of the museum in Victoria, Australia.

It was decided by the committee to offer honorary membership of the MDMA, which offer was accepted. Even more intriguing was that Robert was visiting the UK this autumn, travelling with his mother. Thus it was that both of them were invited to take tea in our Museum on Tuesday 19 October. Christine had organised a visit to the Moot Hall for the Thompsons before moving on to the Museum in the Park. At the Moot Hall they joined a



Paddy and Robert exchange gifts

mayoral party as the mayor and mayoress, Ken and Lynn Smith, were showing round two guests from Cuijk. After a most enjoyable tour everybody proceeded to the Prom where they were greeted by Judy, Tina, Eric and myself together with councillor David Williams, the MDC representative on the liaison committee that we have with the council, who was also an invited guest. After photographs by the Essex

Chronicle the party first studied with enthusiasm a display of items that the Museum holds regarding our namesake down under, put together by Betty Chittenden for the occasion.

There followed a tour of the Museum for the whole party before arriving back in the Long Hall where Judy Betteridge had laid out a delicious tea complete with linen table cloth,

Continued P18

The myth of 'Captain Ann' and a bitter confrontation

By Stephen P.Nunn

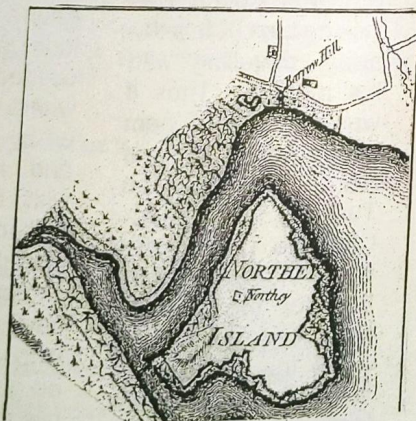
Many years ago I acquired an old manuscript relating to the so-called 'Barrow Marsh' or 'Borough Hills', located alongside Goldhanger Road at Mill Beach.

This obscure piece of shoreline, adjacent to the bend in the river opposite Hilly Pool Point, Northey Island, has a fascinating history. So I decided to donate the document to the Essex Record Office in order that it could be preserved and accessed by a wider public. Located in a strategic position on the old Maldon borough boundary, Barrow Marsh has a real touch of the mystic about it. It was originally covered in tumuli, thought to be the last resting places of the fallen from the ill-fated encounter that we now call the Battle of Maldon. (In reality they were probably formed from material excavated in making large brine-pits in salt extraction).

Because of its position it was just outside of the zone where river tolls were payable to the borough, so it became a popular spot for loading and unloading cargoes. In the seventeenth century it was the scene of two shocking incidents that would have far-reaching implications for the people involved and would set off a tale that would grow and evolve in the telling.

I have heard so many versions of the story of "Captain Ann" over the years – someone was even holding forth about her at a recent cricket match that I was trying to watch! It's difficult nowadays to extract fact from fiction about this local woman – mind you they say that when the legend becomes the fact, people end up printing the legend (a bit like aspects of the aforementioned Battle of Maldon really!).

Some authors have described Ann Carter as an early "female activist". She is seen by others as a "champion of the feminist cause" who rescued her class from starvation, a "symbol of social justice and feminism".



Barrow Marsh
at Mill Beach

This is what we do to history – stamp our own 21st century opinions on events that took place in a different time and context. We even have a beer named after her now! The truth, however, is rather less romantic – a local who flouted the law and authority on many occasions, who incited our community to riot and who was unrepentant about her behaviour and actions and paid the ultimate price for it, leading others to their death. So who was she really and what did she do?

The year 1629 heralded a very poor grain harvest, resulting in a marked increase in food prices. Not only that but unemployment was high and the limited stocks of grain that were around were being reduced even further through profitable exports to Europe. King (Charles I) and government failed to intervene and so the scene was set for bitter confrontation. Ann Carter was said to be the wife of a local (Maldon) butcher. Perhaps her husband worked in the 'shambles', or meat market, outside of All Saints' church, where another (alleged) "Maldon butcher", Stephen Knight, was burned at the stake for his

Protestant faith some 70 years earlier, in 1555.

Some historians have said that she is hard to find in the written record – they obviously haven't looked very hard! Only the other day I located her marriage in the original parish register for St. Peter's. There she is along with John – an innocent enough entry by the Rev Israel Hewitt, but it was a partnership that would end so tragically.

Authors have suggested that she might have had a child or children. That is difficult to establish but there is a scratchy line in the registers for 1625 about the baptism of Valentine, the son of John and Ann (and it desperately wants to read "Carter").

Other documentation reveals for sure that in 1623 Ann was in trouble for not attending church on Sunday and had told one of the borough aldermen (John Rudland) that she would only go and worship if someone would do her housework for her. That sounds very Maldonian – just the sort of thing my late grandmother would have said! Clearly Ann Carter was a feisty and

most outspoken individual and the following year (1624) she threatened the sergeant-at-arms with a cudgel when he attempted to arrest her husband. She was then fined over market dues (was she herself possibly trading illegally in grain!).

In the March of 1629 rebellion broke out when a crowd of more than 100 women and children, some of them, like Ann, already well-known to the authorities, descended on a Flemish grain ship being loaded with rye off Barrow Marsh. According to the town clerk's records, self-styled "Captain" Ann Carter was amongst their number. The mob boarded the vessel and stole amounts of grain from the ship's hold, filling their apron pockets, caps and gowns with the stuff. Surprisingly, absolutely nothing was done about Ann or her confederates as a result of that incident.

Less than two months later, on 22 May, she gathered a further much larger group together, this time in the region



of 2-300 people. They were mainly unemployed cloth workers from the Heybridge, Witham, Bocking and Braintree areas. The mob returned to Barrow Marsh and there is a report that Captain Ann was heard to incite the rioters with the words; "Come on my brave lads (some reports say "boys") of Maldon, I will be your leader for we will not want (or "starve")". A house was broken into and again they boarded merchant ships, assaulted crew members and removed more grain. In desperation one ship was even forced to put out to sea.

Despite the legal position at the time and the emphasis on male culpability for such crimes, enough was enough. An exception was made in Ann Carter's case - after all, she had called herself a "captain" (which was a male office in itself) and had led large numbers of men against the authorities.

As a result, an investigation took place - one eyewitness account (interestingly dated April 1629) was provided by the captain of a hoy (a type of early barge) by the name of Philip Ewdes. Writs were issued and a number of the rioters were rounded up. Captain Ann, along with eight others, was taken into custody and tried in court. They were found guilty of sedition, but three of them were shown mercy. Of the remainder, four were hanged on 30 May at Chelmsford gaol - three men and Captain Ann Carter. So in truth the riots were not Maldon-based at all; they were outside of

the town's boundary and toll jurisdiction. Neither were they restricted to our region - rebellion occurred in pockets across the coastlands of East Anglia throughout the 1620s and 30s.

Ann was already a known trouble-maker with a clear contempt for authority - both church and state. Was that why she was really identified for punishment as an example to others? She wasn't, however, the only person to be executed as a result of the incident. Neither was she the only prominent female involved - others are mentioned including Dorothy Berry who turned evidence, Elizabeth Sturghion of Beeleigh and Anne, the wife of Thomas Spearman, a fisherman. And the occupation of that last named individual brings us to a curious link. Ann Carter's maiden name was Barrington. The Barringtons feature throughout the St. Peter's parish records. One particular line was very wealthy and powerful indeed, able to influence the election of Maldon burgesses in Parliament.

A cadet branch included John Barrington, fisherman of St. Peter's, whose will is dated the very year Ann married - 1620. He had three sons and his wife was also called Ann. Did he have a wayward daughter of the same name? If he did, then she came from a comfortable background and had a father who owned (and left) property. It wasn't unusual for daughters to be excluded from wills by name. It was, after all, a male dominated world and the only fe-



male explicitly included was usually the spouse. If this was Ann's background then she came from a class that was at least one step removed from "starving peasants" desperate for grain. Is that why the authorities initially turned a blind eye and why eventually they wanted to make an example of her in town? So the story (told at cricket matches and in other places) isn't as clear cut as some would like us to believe. But then we all love a historical rogue don't we? You've only got to look at the amount of interest in, say, Dick Turpin or more recently the Krays, to realise that. The trouble is such individuals become something that they quite clearly were not. When people take the law into their own hands, incite violence and engage in acts of theft, then that amounts to a breach of the law and of all human rights. The ultimate outcome of such repeated actions is anarchy. So, infamous they might be, but these people are not heroes or heroines - even the Maldon female freedom fighters amongst them!

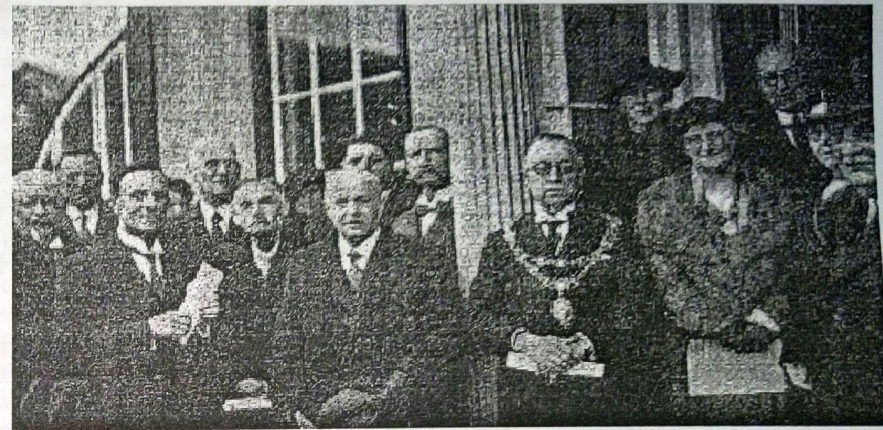
Art deco plaque records a generous gift to Maldon

In late August the Museum was offered by Maldon District Council a bronze metal plaque in the art deco style that recorded the gift of Hill House to Maldon Borough Council by alderman Harold Granger, writes Paddy Lacey. The plaque was unveiled by his worship the mayor, alderman Stephen Garfield Tydeman on Tuesday 21 March 1939 at 3.30pm.

The Museum hopes to mount the plaque in the courtyard during the winter break.

ter break. Strangely, I was given a box file of cuttings and photocopies belonging to the late George Ginn, also a mayor of Maldon, and this contained an invitation to the unveiling and a description of the corporation building that was inspected on the same day, together with a press cutting from the Essex Chronicle describing the event.

I thought that these items may stimulate the memories of our senior members. I have been in contact with John Tydeman, son of Stephen, who reminded me that his father was elected mayor in 1937 and was asked in late 1939 if he would continue in post until the 'crisis' ended.



ABOVE: Alderman Stephen Tydeman and guests after unveiling the plaque at Hill House on Tuesday 21 March, 1939

RIGHT: The bronze plaque that commemorates Harold Granger's generous gift of his former home Hill House, on Market Hill, to the borough of Maldon in 1937. He served the town as a councillor and alderman for 29 years.

BOROUGH OF MALDON

UNVEILING OF A TABLET to commemorate

THE LATE ALDERMAN GRANGER'S GIFT OF HILL HOUSE
to the
CORPORATION OF THIS BOROUGH

THE TABLET

"This property (Hill House) the residence of the late Alderman Harold Granger, was by his will bequeathed to the Corporation of Maldon in the year 1937.

Alderman Granger served as a member of the Maldon Town Council for twenty nine years.

Elected Councillor 1st November, 1907.
Elected Alderman 17th April, 1934."

Unveiled by His Worship the Mayor (Alderman S.G. Tydeman) on Tuesday 21st March, 1939 at 3.30 p.m.

THE CORPORATION 1938/9.

MAYOR:-

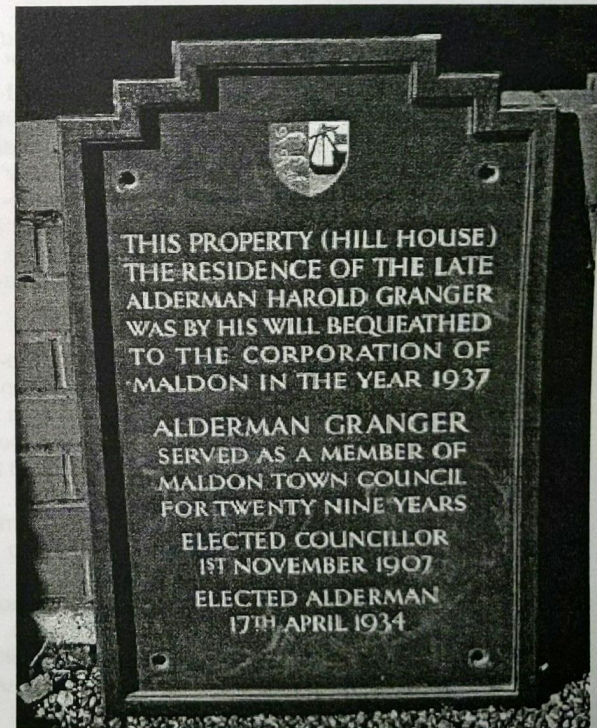
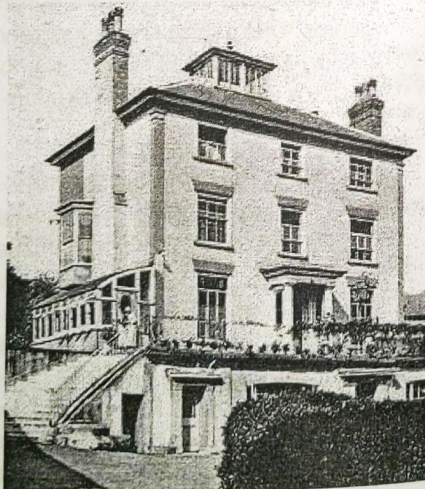
Alderman S.G. Tydeman.

ALDERMEN:-

E. T. Baker, W. T. Barbrook, A. L. Clarke J. G. Sadd.

COUNCILLORS:-

C. W. Betts, W. Binder, A. Bunting, A. H. Bush, C. C. Cowell, H. Coult, S. G. Deed, E. C. Dines, G. H. Free, A. Gupp, J. W. Gossett, A. C. Morley, J. J. Oliver, C. E. Playour and W. F. Wakelin.



THIS PROPERTY (HILL HOUSE)
THE RESIDENCE OF THE LATE
ALDERMAN HAROLD GRANGER
WAS BY HIS WILL BEQUEATHED
TO THE CORPORATION OF
MALDON IN THE YEAR 1937

ALDERMAN GRANGER
SERVED AS A MEMBER OF
MALDON TOWN COUNCIL
FOR TWENTY NINE YEARS
ELECTED COUNCILLOR
1ST NOVEMBER 1907
ELECTED ALDERMAN
17TH APRIL 1934

Ague - the scourge that took the old and weak

Ague was the scourge of Essex marshland for hundreds of years: a killer that took the weakest in each community - the old, the young and the sickly.

It was the common name for malarial fever until the 19th century, and had first entered English usage in the 14th century, coming from the French and sharing the same origin as 'acute.' A 'fièvre aigue' in French was an acute fever.

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote in the 14th century in 'The Nun's Priest's Tale': "You are so very choleric of complexion Beware the mounting sun and all dejection Nor get yourself with sudden humours hot For if you do, I dare will lay a groat

That you shall have the tertian fever's pain Or some ague that may well be your bane."

Many marshlands of 16th century England were notorious for ague, and William Shakespeare mentioned ague in eight of his plays (and

By Kelvin Brown

actually had a character Sir Andrew Aguecheek in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream').

In the 17th century Daniel Defoe had a shocked Robinson Crusoe say, when he discovered a footprint in the sand: "so that I shook with cold, like one in an ague."

Defoe had travelled widely in southern England between 1685 and 1690 and in 'A Tour through the whole island of Great Britain' he described life for the ague-stricken population of the Dengie marshes.

The people were prepared to suffer and indeed risk their lives there because, as the marshland was ideal for rearing high quality sheep and cattle, farmers were prepared to pay high wages.

But those who had not been born on those lonely marshes had little or no immunity to ague, and Defoe observed: "a

strange decay of the (female) sex here....it was very frequent to meet with men that had from five to six, to 14 or 15 wives....the reason....was this, that they being bred in the marshes themselves, and seasoned to the place, did pretty well with it; but that they always went into the hilly country....for a wife: that when they took the young lasses out of the wholesome and fresh air, they were healthy, fresh and clear, and well; but when they came out of their native aire into the marshes...they presently changed their complexion, got an ague or two, and seldom held it above half a year, or a year at most; and then...(the men) would go to the uplands again, and fetch another; so that marrying of wives was reckoned a kind of good farm to them." Malaria was transmitted in England by five indigenous species of mosquito, with *Anopheles antroparvus* the most

likely distributor of ague in the 16th and 17th centuries.

It was such a scourge that vicars or curates of marshland parishes invariably actually lived inland, away from their flock, who had no choice but to spend their working lives at constant risk of the dreaded ague.

Malaria was endemic in parts of England from the mid 16th century until the early 18th, the coldest part of what was to become known as the Little Ice Age, and can only really be regarded as becoming uncommon after the 1880s, with a number of factors contributing to its decline in English marshland areas, according to studies by Paul Reiter of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Mosquito habitats were destroyed by improved drainage and land reclamation; root crops such as turnips were introduced as winter fodder, meaning farms could keep more animals, and mosquitoes could feed on those animals instead of humans; rural populations declined as manual labour was re-

placed by machinery; new building materials and construction methods made houses more mosquito-proof and greater access to healthcare and the much-reduced cost of quinine reduced the survival rate of mosquitoes in their human host.

Essex has a claim to fame in the fight against malaria: quinine's effective use as a cure for malaria was actually first developed in field tests with ague sufferers in the remote Essex marshes.

Writing in 'Marsh-Country Rambles' in 1904, H.W. Tompkins described a conversation with an old man who had spent his life on the marshes in Mehalah country, that lonely area between Mersea island and Tollesbury: "He told me that 60 or 70 years ago the ague was in 'most ev'ry fam'ly' throughout the marsh country.

"He assured me that the neighbourhood was then more thickly wooded, and attributed the ague to the white mist that frequently hung over it almost throughout the day. "Sometimes this malady

took chronic form. In such cases it was called the 'long ague' and lasted perhaps for three years. The older victim could do little except crouch over the fire, when he had one, shivering intermittently, and raising a hand from time to time to wipe away the cold sweat that gathered upon his forehead."

The last indigenous case of malaria in England was in the 1950s, and the World Health Organisation declared Europe free of malaria in 1975.

Did you know?

Only two British monarchs have reigned more than once - Henry VI from 1422-1461 and 1470-1471 and Edward IV from 1461-1470 and 1471-1483. The last British monarch to lead troops into battle was George II at the Battle of Dettingen against the French in 1743.

“There was a murderous fracas...many heads were broken”

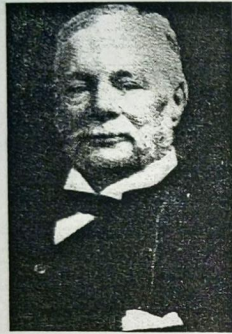
The General Election of April 1880 in Maldon ended with broken heads and last-minute double-dealing to secure victory

General Elections of the late 19th century were nothing like the comparatively staid affairs they are today. In some towns they were particularly rough and tough, and Maldon was certainly no exception.

When Liberal George Courtauld of Gosfield went head to head with Conservative Sir William Abdy in 1880, he was also locking horns with two of the area's most redoubtable characters, Dr John Salter of Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Sir Claude Champion de Crespigny of Champion Lodge, Great Totham. David Hughes gives an excellent account of the April 1 election in his book *The Maldonians*, which also provides fascinating insights into the lives and times of many others of our prominent citizens.

Dr Salter and Sir Claude were close friends who worked together to try to get Sir William Abdy elected. Describing the build-up to polling day, Dr Salter said: "I suppose Maldon was one of

By Kelvin Brown



George Courtauld

the most corrupt places in the county, beating even Colchester, which is saying a great deal. Mr George Courtauld, Liberal, was a rich, shrewd man of the world. Abdy also had plenty of money and brains...both were compared, at this election, to spend any amount of money, and did. They both spoke well and had a great campaign." But as polling day approached, "we began to get very down in the mouth, and at one of the meetings we all said Abdy was going to lose, since all the voters com-

ing in from the country were going to be hustled into the public houses on arrival by 600 men from Halstead, and there to be kept by liquor and other means from getting to the poll," continued Dr Salter.

"We wondered how to counteract this Halstead move, so Sir Claude volunteered to go to London to get as many prize-fighters as he could, and I was sent to Colchester to get what I could from there. Sir Claude got a company of gentlemen, all marked with small-pox, and ready for a row on the least provocation."

Taking up the story, the *Essex Herald* of April 6, 1880, said: "Very shortly after the poll opened, it became evident that a large number of roughs, who were said to have come from Plaistow and that neighbourhood, had arrived upon the scene. These men were conspicuous by the uncompromising size of their rosettes

and the equally uncompromising look of the bludgeons which they carried."

The town, seemingly, was a sea of blue (Conservative) and yellow (Liberal) rosettes, ties, flags and streamers. The Reform Club flew a yellow flag inscribed with the Liberal motto 'Peace, entrenchment and reform'.

Dr Salter related in his memoirs: "Up came my Tollesbury blue-jackets in a cavalcade of wagons, and at the tail of each wagon I had two men in command, so that the men should not be induced to get out at the bottom of Maldon's steep hill to be enticed into public houses. At the Causeway, going up to Maldon, we were met by Sir Claude's...hungry pugilists."

So the scene was set, but not everyone was happy at the prospect of a pitched battle, with the *Essex Herald* describing how many of the leading men of both sides "disguised with this attempt at intimidation,

walked up and down the High Street arm in arm as an indication that party spirit did not run so highly as might otherwise have been supposed."

Four of the most violent ruffians were arrested to try to stop trouble, and two MPs appealed for calm from an upper window of the King's Head, but that just made things worse.

By noon the High Street was full of agitated men spoiling for a fight. Dr Salter related: "There was a murderous fracas...in the centre of town and many heads were broken."

He said: "I was standing by Poole's shop when a cart containing men came along with blue favours. The fellows (the Halstead contingent) were infuriated, the cart was broken up, the men rolled in the road...Sir Claude's men, seeing the row going on, came down the road at a sort of canter to take part in it."

Dr Salter remonstrated with one of the leaders,



Sir Claude

then laid the man out when he raised his bludgeon. By this time Sir Claude had taken refuge in the barricaded High Street home of Humphrey the draper, where Dr Salter found him surrounded by ladies.

The two men set off up the middle of the street: "I pulled out my cigar case and we each lit a cigar with Vesuvians, which we flicked with the ends of our cigars into the faces of the yellows, who were booing us...we strolled up the middle of the street, puffing our cigar smoke into the faces of the mob, quite expecting to be

Continued P22

The Monarch's Christmas message

The Monarch's Christmas message has been a part of Christmas celebrations for more than three quarters of a century, ever since Rudyard Kipling penned the first message for his friend King George V to broadcast from Sandringham in 1932. Following George's death in 1936, Edward VIII and George VI ascended the throne, but there was no Christmas message that year because there was no crowned Monarch.

George VI made his first broadcast in 1937, missed 1938, then delivered a message every year until his death. The Queen broadcast her first in 1952, from Sandringham, and delivered it live until 1960, when she began to record it in advance. There was no message in 1969 because the Queen felt she had been on TV too much during the year, but it was back on the BBC in 1970. Since 1997 it has been delivered in rotation by the BBC and ITV, and appeared on the internet in 1998; it can now be accessed via a number of websites, and is available as a podcast. It is broadcast at 3pm on Christmas Day.

Maldon High Street in the 1930s



This picture of Maldon High Street was taken some time between 1933 and 1937 - a date that can be established by looking at the building on the right, which was Goddard's refreshment rooms between those years

Maldon's Historic Churches



St Mary's, Tollesbury

St Mary's Church in Tollesbury dates from the 11th century, with additions over many periods, including Tudor doorways and windows, 17th century parapet walls and pinnacles on the tower, an 18th century font and 20th century vestry.

Tollesbury's maritime traditions are recorded in a beautiful stained glass window in St Mary's donated in the 1960s by Tollesbury-born New York banker Frederick E. Hasler as a lasting memorial to the village men who, over the centuries, had earned their living from the sea.

One section of the window is devoted to yachts crewed by Tollesbury men in the America's Cup, including *Shamrock II* and the two *Endeavour* yachts skippered by Captain Ted Heard.

Another commemorates the sailing barges, trading vessels and oyster smacks that were Tollesbury's lifeblood. Mr Hasler expressly asked the artist who designed the window to make the smack CK 318, the Colchester-registered *Alberta* owned by his old Sunday school teacher, a man named Pettican, and on which he spent a memorable two-week holiday in 1900.

The font is undoubtedly unique, in being paid for back in 1718 by the £5 John Norman gave to the church to save himself from prosecution for drunkenly swearing and talking loudly during a service.

It bears the inscription "Good people all I pray take care that in ye Church you doe not sware As this man did".

A day trip to Maldon!

Liz Willsher has been to Maldon Museum - but this Maldon is on the other side of the world!

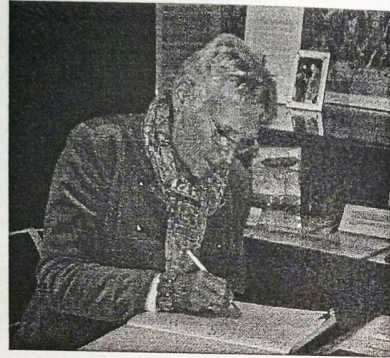
At the end of September, on a very bright but chilly early morning, two ladies set out from Adelaide (South Australia) to Maldon (Victoria).

I was spending six weeks in Australia visiting both our daughters and families in Brisbane and Adelaide. On arrival in Adelaide I made a few tentative enquiries and a couple of telephone calls to the museum in our namesake town in the state of Victoria. Within a couple of days my daughter Erica had booked us 6.30 a.m. flights to Melbourne, a connecting bus to the railway station, train tickets to Castlemaine and I had accepted the offer of a car drive from there to Maldon.

The vintage train from Castlemaine to Maldon was not running that day so Robert Thompson (the museum president) kindly met us at Castlemaine station and we were most surprised to see such a youthful museum president. At age 19 he was the most welcoming and informative host.

On arriving at Maldon after a pleasant journey through rolling green hills and woodland we were joined by Lis Allan the museum secretary, and treated to lunch in a very nice café. Erica and I had been speculating on how to respond politely if we were offered the ubiquitous Aussie meat pie, but were very pleased to see veggie and gluten-free options on the menu.

After lunch we began our tour of the town and visited the museum situated



Liz signs the visitors' book before exploring the museum

in the old Shire Hall in the municipal gardens. The building was very light and airy and full of interesting exhibits on the history of Maldon from early beginnings in 1840, through the prosperous gold mining days of the next 90 years, gradually reverting to the small heritage town attracting many visitors, that it has now become.

In the museum Robert and Lis pointed out a glass case containing a large open scrap book displaying letters written in a childish hand. They described this as the "Apple Book".

As we looked more closely I was intrigued to see that it was compiled by our Maldon County Primary School to thank the people of Maldon Victoria for a gift of Australian apples for the children of our town in 1949.

To my amazement one of the letters displayed on the open page was written by my friend and new museum steward Heather Stephens (nee Pitt) aged 8 and signed "Heather June Pitt".

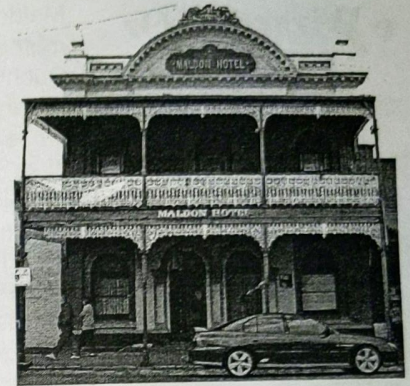
I expressed my excitement and curiosity about the contents of the rest of the book and Robert promptly produced screwdrivers etc. to open the case so we could look more closely. More letters and pages of pupils' photos were revealed, including many familiar faces and names, among them my husband Eric's youngest sister.

I was a pupil at All Saints' School at the time and I remember the distribution of the apples (which I think for us took place on the Prom). However, it seems that Maldon County Primary School were more involved in communication with our namesake in Victoria.

Robert and Lis took us on a tour of the whole area including a visit to the top of Mount Tarrangower for spectacular views, and to a large reservoir



Robert and Lis with a Maldon (Essex) display



This very stylish hotel makes an impressive addition to the Maldon, Victoria, streetscene

which for the first time in 15 years had refilled with water following a very wet winter and early spring. The state of Victoria had previously suffered from extreme drought and the risk of fire was always present. We returned to the town, visited some shops for purchases of souvenirs, and had a quick look through the gates of the vintage machinery museum (part of Maldon museum) as that was all time would allow.

It was a wonderful day and I am so glad that we made the journey, thanks to my daughter's organisational skills and enthusiasm for a day out.

I am glad that Robert and his mother Renee enjoyed their visit to the town and our museum on October 19, although I was still in Australia at the time and not able to be there.

I hope we can continue with our communication between the two museums, now brought to life by the visits from either side of the globe.

Wizard of Oz - from P3

napkins and the Bet-teridge best tea service including two large tea pots. Elegance survives in Tolleshunt

D'Arcy and we were receiving the benefit. Tina, our treasurer, had been despatched shortly before the guests arrived to heat up some vegetarian items that had been delivered in an uncooked state. Despite this hitch and, that the representative from the Standard arrived an hour too early and had to move on to his next appointment before anything had happened, all went splendidly with Eric Willsher taking a photographic record of the day.

Robert was presented with a book about

Maldon and Renee his mother with a box of Duchy chocolates. He in turn presented the Museum with items about his home town, its history especially relating to gold mining and its present day museums.

It was marvellous to be able to say 'G'day' in person to our honorary member from Victoria but we were surprised to find that he was still three years too young to drive a hire car, the minimum being 23, and that therefore all the driving had to be done by Renee, who was certainly not the little grey-haired lady that we were half expecting.

The Thompson family are all involved with their volunteer-led museum. Wouldn't it be great to have a similar young wizard locally active in our association.

Shovegroat, anyone?

Shovegroat, slidegroat, slidethrift and shovelboard were all predecessors of the modern shovehalfpenny, which was first recorded in 1841, according to F.G. Emmison in *Elizabethan Life, Disorder*. Shovegroat dates from at least 1488, with the rest appearing in the next century.

"The players gave a smart push to a groat or other coin, scoring by the position of the lines marked on the table," says Emmison.

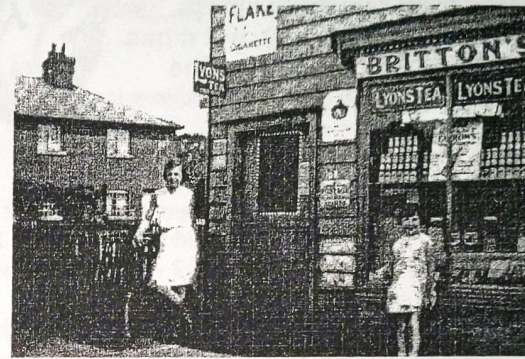
"Such incised marks can be seen on a table at Beeleigh Abbey. An old shovelboard table, 4 ³/₄ yards long, mentioned in an inventory of Ingatestone Hall, 1600, had presumably been engraved at one end"

Did you know?

England's youngest ever monarch was Henry VI, who came to the throne in 1422 aged just 6 months.

To build up England's shipping capacity - and its seafarers - Queen Elizabeth I made it compulsory for the people of England to eat fish on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Does anyone remember Britton's?



Does anyone remember this shop, Britton's, in Maldon in the inter-war years? This photocopy from an old newspaper, brought into the Museum by Alan Shearing, has caused much head-scratching among a number of Maldonians who think they remember the name, but not the location. If you can help, please let the editor know

More memories of the Peculiars

Penny Farthing reader Terry Ruggles, a former Heybridge man who now lives in Massachusetts, has written to tell us a little more about the Peculiars and about Bertie Ruggles, his grandfather's brother, who was Elder of the Peculiar People's Church in Cressing.

Bertie, who died in 1969, aged 78, never took medicines of any sort after his conversion to the faith aged 23. He told Braintree and Witham Times reporter John Peachey in an interview in 1967: "We hold fast to our faith, as the Lord told us. The power of healing, which builds up in your body over the years of living in the faith, can cure all ills."

Mr Ruggles had healed and had been healed himself, he said: "My brother in the faith laid his hands on me when I was suffering from a wind colic. I recovered and have never felt such symptoms again. The same thing happened when my finger became septic."

A local doctor with many years experience in dealing with Peculiars described them as charming people. "They would let you examine them and accept your medicine. They were too polite to say that they had no intention of taking it." But however devout its followers, there was no-one to fill the pews when the old members of the area's Peculiar chapels died. "The young don't want to know," said Bertie Ruggles. "Their minds are too taken with the things of this world for them to bother to try to prepare themselves for the next."

TIMES PAST



George III came to the throne in 1760 and in the latter part of his life suffered from recurring illness, which was diagnosed in 1810 as insanity, but it has since been suggested that it may have been the blood disease porphyria

1810

The Napoleonic Wars had been waged for many years (and would continue for another five until Napoleon's defeat) and Britain was in the middle of the Anglo-Russian War, which started in 1807 and would not end until 1812, but that was a war more in name than reality.

The six-year Peninsula War had started in 1808, with France on one side and the UK, Spain and Portugal on the other, for control of the Iberian Peninsula. It was this war, incidentally, that appears to have introduced the word guerilla into common parlance.

Before the end of the year the UK was drawn into the Anglo-Swedish War, after Sweden declared war.

It was a busy year romantically for Napoleon - his marriage to Josephine was annulled in January, and he quickly married Marie-Louise of Austria in March; it was soon business as usual, however, and in July he flexed his muscles again, by annexing the Kingdom of Holland.

Births during the year included Frederic Chopin, the Polish composer and pianist, who died comparatively young, in 1849, novelist Elizabeth Gaskell and the botanist and pioneer photographer John Dillwyn Llewelyn.

There was rioting in London in April after Sir Francis Burdett MP was imprisoned, charged with libel against Parliament after calling for reform of the House of Commons. There was also unrest in Manchester, where adult cotton spinners went on strike.

If you think Indian restaurants are a modern dining experience, think again: this was the year that Sake Dean Mahomet opened the *Hindoostanee Coffee House*, London's first Indian restaurant.

1810 ended with George III's eldest son, George, Prince of Wales, ruling as Prince Regent, which he did until his father died in 1820, when he became George IV.



ST. CEDD'S CHATLINE

By Liz Willsher

Autumnal greetings to all from the team at St Cedd's !

I have just returned from a six weeks trip to Australia to visit the family, and fulfilled a wish that I have had for some time...to visit Maldon, Victoria, and the Maldon Museum.

As I am trying to keep the Chatline to a more manageable size, ("Hurrah" says the editor), I will just mention some of the interesting donations which have come our way recently and report that work continues on re-arranging the store, particularly the costume and textiles into new storage boxes. It will be a considerable task, but well worthwhile.

In the meantime we shall be spending a fair amount of time at the museum, dismantling, cleaning and preparing for new displays.

Thanks to Julie Dallard, at Maldon District Council, a bronze plaque has been donated which was discovered in a cupboard at the offices. It commemorates the donation of Hill House, on Market Hill, Maldon, to the Mayor and Corporation of the borough by Alderman Granger, whose family residence the property had been. The house was later used as offices for Maldon Borough Council until it was converted into private residences again after the formation of the district council.

Colchester & Ipswich museums service have recently sent us a photograph of Myra Sadd Brown, a suffragette in 1912, from another well-known Maldon family. The photo is now on display in the Sadd room at the museum.

Last, but not least, a photo of well known local character "Rocky" Markham has come our way. I'm sure many will remember the little shop in the High Street and the kiosk on the Prom where the famous Maldon rock was sold. Fortunately we had strong teeth, due to the natural occurrence of fluorine in the drinking water!

We hope to see members and friends again in 2011 at the museum.

Meanwhile, early Season's Greeting from all the team !

TAILPIECE BY THE EDITOR

In the last *Penny Farthing*, Ann Puttock asked if anyone remembered the artist who used to display his work outside the old Hippodrome cinema in Maldon High Street.

Tony and Christine Wallis, who now live in Yorkshire, together with Tony's 95-year-old mother and 96-year-old aunt Cynthia Landeryou, nee Wallis, have been able to fill in some details.

"Auntie remembers him, as they lived next door to the cinema; her father's shop and house was where Peacocks is now. He made and repaired shoes.

"Part of the shop front was let to Mrs Tunbridge, who sold dresses etc, and the cinema next to that. Grandfather sold the shop to the Co-op who opened a chemist and then knocked it all down and built Malco House, now Peacocks." Years before the shop it was a farm house, so presumably there was farm land around the house originally and the chase at the bottom of the garden was apparently the old farm track going round the back.

Cynthia remembers a big garden where they grew lots of fruit and she remembers lovely large pink gooseberries she had to pick for her mother (who came to Maldon as a district nurse). The Hippodrome cinema had an emergency exit door which opened out next to the family's garden.

"She remembers the little man who used to sit outside the cinema and painting; he sat in a self-propelled wheelchair, and she thinks he lived down North Street, but couldn't remember his name," said Tony and Christine, who pass their copies of *Penny Farthing* on to dear friends David and Joy Bacon in Scotland, who previously lived in Heybridge and Southminster.

Museum steward Geoff Eaton has added two missing names to the picture of Maldon's young women footballers in the last *Penny Farthing*. In the back row is Florence Riedling and in the front Pam Lewis.

1880 General Election - from page 13

assaulted, but nobody touched us - which was very odd indeed, for the blood of all was up." He then lunched at the Reform Club "to show there was no ill feeling, and was warmly cheered by the fellows, young Bentall, whom I had knocked down in the morning, drinking my health with musical hon-

ours." By mid-afternoon, the Conservatives were scenting victory, but the Liberals were not to be beaten, as Dr Salter recalled: "The Heybridge Basin men came up at the last and settled it. The Liberals had bought them. They were originally to have had ten shillings down and

a pound more if the election was won. Hearing this I suggested 30 shillings apiece and another 30 shillings if we won, but we were outbid." That last-minute manoeuvre helped Liberal George Courtauld to an 18-vote majority, polling 679 to Sir William Abdy's 661.

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