

## Come and visit us

The Museum in the Park  
47 Mill Road  
Maldon, Essex CM9 5HX

You'll find us by the main gates  
of the Promenade Park.

Open from April to October 2019  
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 2—5pm  
Sunday/Bank Holiday Mondays 11—5pm  
Entry for Children is Free; Adults £2

## Contacting the Museum

By phone 01621 842688  
By email [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)  
Website [www.maldonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.maldonmuseum.org.uk)

Follow the Museum on Twitter  
[@MaldonMuseum](https://twitter.com/MaldonMuseum)



## Contributions for the newsletter

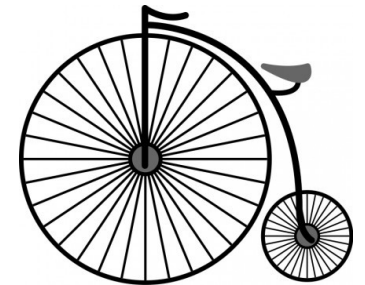
We welcome your contributions to this magazine and would be happy to receive articles, images, letters and comments. If you have something you would like to submit, however small, please email it to [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)

# The Museum in the Park Maldon



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## The Penny Farthing

Issue 88 April 2019

## Chair's Chat

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. One of the exciting things we are looking forward to this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Maldon Twinning Association's twinning with Cuijk. During a long weekend visit, among other activities, the Dutch contingent with some of the hosts will be visiting the Museum at 1.00 pm on Friday 21st June! We look forward to meeting them.

Judy has received on behalf of the Museum an ornamental cigar, which was given by one of the earliest Cuijk visitors to the parents of a local person who has now donated it to the Museum. We plan to display it in June for their delectation! You can read more about the cigar in 'Museum Musings'.

*Flo Shaughnessy, Co-Chair*

## Your Museum is changing

As some of our Friends already know, Maldon District Museum is changing. When the Museum was set up in its present form, about 20 years ago, it became an unincorporated charity under the auspices of the Charity Commission. This was the normal status adopted by small Museums such as ours. However, under this form of governance, all members of our committee are officially trustees and as such will be personally financially responsible for any legal liability the Museum might incur.

Although the risk is low, and we are covered by insurance, as committee members we are unhappy with this position. Indeed, we have lost two invaluable members and recruiting new volunteers willing to serve becomes difficult in the circumstances. Following some high profile cases of charities, and therefore their trustees, finding themselves legally liable, the government introduced a new form of governance for charities known as an Incorporated Charitable Organisation. Small museums are being encouraged to change to the new form and this is what your committee is now engaged in doing.

## The Museum in the Park

Registered Charity 301362

Patron – Rt Hon. John Whittingdale, OBE MP

### The Museum team

<b>President</b>	Judy Betteridge
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Cllr. Flo Shaughnessy
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Brigid Van Bruggen
<b>Friends Secretary</b>	Jenny Sjollem
<b>Secretary</b>	Vacant
<b>Treasurer</b>	Keith Davies
<b>Accessions Officer</b>	Harriett Crawford-Condle
<b>Publicity &amp; Social Media</b>	Steven Grindley
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Jonathan Cruickshank
<b>Volunteer Co-ordinator</b>	Brigid van Bruggen
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Ian Linton

## Would you like to be involved with the Museum?

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us run our Museum.

You might like to be a Steward, or to be involved behind the scenes working on displays, conservation of our collection or carrying out maintenance work and cleaning during our closed period. Perhaps you may be interested in joining our management team.

*To find out more please contact [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)*

## Become a Friend of the Museum

This magazine is the official newsletter of the Museum in the Park and is published three times a year.

For £10 annually, or a single lifetime fee of £90, you can become a Friend of Maldon Museum. You'll be entitled to free entry to the Museum during normal opening hours and will also receive a copy of the Museum in the Park magazine three times a year.

For more information, or to join, simply email [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk), call us on 01621 854298 or visit the Museum.

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

## Make a free donation to the Museum

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for the Museum?

The process is straightforward:

1. Join. Visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/maldonmuseum/> and sign up for free.
2. Shop. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping. Amazon is part of the scheme.
3. Contribute. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to the Museum for no extra cost whatsoever.

There are no catches or hidden charges and the Museum will be really grateful for your donations.

What does it mean for you as a Friend? Nothing will really change. The new charity will be called Maldon Museum in the Park and you will remain as a Friend of the Museum on all the same terms. For the committee it means that they can officially become trustees but with no personal legal liability.

So, if a volunteer falls off a ladder or runs off with our funds, (very unlikely), then the Museum itself will be legally liable and not the individual trustees. There will of course be adequate insurance cover in place. We will therefore be able to assure present and future volunteers that they undertake no financial risk in joining the committee.

This is also an opportunity to update our constitution to a more professional document and introduce more modern electronic means of decision making for trustees. The constitution is ready. Our Accessions Officer has taken on the mammoth task of identifying all our non-cash assets that need to be transferred and we will be in communication with the Charity Commission for their authorisation. Once the new charity is up and running, we will call an AGM of Maldon District Museum Association and, with your agreement, close it down.

Jenny Sjollema has kindly agreed to take over from me as Friends Secretary. In order to help her over this tricky period, a subscription renewal form is included in this magazine. If you are an annual subscriber, it would greatly assist us and would be much appreciated if you could use this form to renew your subscription. Your subscription will be transferred to the new charity and a membership card issued for Maldon Museum in the Park.

Thank you for your support. Once this change is made we have lots of new ideas for going forward and making Maldon Museum in the Park an even better place to visit.

*Brigid van Bruggen, Co-Chair*

## Museum Musing

Well – here we are again – another Winter come and gone – and opening day for our 2019 season in just a couple of weeks. I can certainly recommend volunteering at a Museum to dispel the Winter blues. These past few months have sped by, and thanks to a great deal of hard work and elbow grease, we are ready to welcome our visitors.

As we had a punishing schedule of installing our new fire precautions and a massive clean throughout the Museum, it has not been possible to set up a major new display, but as always, we are keen to present something fresh to titivate the tastebuds, so to this end, in our Victorian room, we have set up our coin tower, which contains the major part of our coin and medal collection. A numismatist's dream come true, with some fine Georgian coinage, a selection of international items from Australia, Canada, Ceylon, Morocco, Nepal and India and of more local interest, a Maldon Golf Club Silver Award dated Easter 1899.

As Christopher Foyle has kindly agreed to perform our opening ceremony for us, I thought it would be appropriate to have a pop-up display about Beeleigh Abbey, so with the invaluable assistance of John, Rick and Aart, this is now ready. Some of the items on display have been loaned to us from the Abbey, and the remainder are from our own collection. We do hope that our visitors will enjoy the experience, particularly Aart's plainsong accompaniment.

Our Accessions work is all up to date – a major task through the past weeks has been to check the contents of the Bygones Store and enter the list on our Museum computer. You can appreciate the magnitude of this task when I tell you that we have over thirty shelves of items ..... All done and dusted now, so another Herculean task completed.

At the beginning of the year, we were approached by Julia Abel-Smith of Art UK, who with her photographer Jaron, came along to photograph our maquettes of the Edward Bright Wager by Catharni Stern. These items are to appear in the on-line catalogue of items of sculpture held in UK Museums. Completion of the catalogue is scheduled for later in 2019.

## Arrange a visit

The Museum opens for the season on 6th April and it's never too early to plan a visit. We welcome group visits to the Museum at times and dates that can be arranged to suit.

For adults, the charge is £2 per head. For schools, the charge is £35 per class, which includes teachers and adult helpers.

We can also offer a school's outreach service when a member of the Museum will visit the school and take a number of artifacts for children to see and talk about.

To book a visit, or for more information, please email [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)

## Join us as a Museum Steward

This can be a very rewarding role as it requires meeting and talking with visitors to the Museum. It involves taking the entrance money and ensuring the safety of visitors.

The basic requirement is one 3-hour session per month, although, if you are able to offer more sessions, we should be very grateful. We open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons from 2-5pm, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 11-5pm.

Full training will be given and no steward is permitted to work on their own.

If you are interested in becoming a steward, please contact us to find out more - [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)

**Maldon Grammar School.**

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The First Annual  
**ATHLETIC SPORTS**

Held by kind permission of Mr. T. MASTERS, in a Field  
adjoining

**MALDON HALL,**

On Wednesday, May 20th, 1896,

AT 2 P.M.

J U D G E S	<b>REV. R. H. RYLAND, B.A. MR. H. A. MEYRICK.</b>
R E F E R E E -	<b>REV. S. R. HORWOOD, M.A.</b>
S T A R T E R -	<b>REV. D. GOTTO, M.A.</b>
H A N D I C A P P E R	<b>MR. E. DUDLEY GUTTERIDGE.</b>
T I M E - K E E P E R -	<b>MR. J. P. SAYER.</b>

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^T ill play on tht' lh-Qu n tl from 2- 6 p.m.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SUPPLIED BY MR. TEW.

RICHARD POOLE, PRINTER, MALDON.

We were so pleased to be included, as several of our paintings appear in the Art-UK catalogue which was compiled many years ago. Our entry includes four little naïve oils of Beeleigh Abbey, which I have put on display in our pop-up.

So, what have we acquired recently for our collection? As usual at this time of year, input of new items has been slow. It tends to pick up in the Spring as people get started on cleaning and clearing out of attics, sheds and the like. A small group of toys are a delight, including a Jew's harp (I can't seem to get a tune out of it), and a charming Model Toy Kit from World War Two.

A really exciting item has just been donated in the past couple of weeks. A wonderfully decorative commemorative cigar from Cuijk in the Netherlands – about a foot long and housed in a protective cardboard tube. Apparently this cigar was given to the donor's Mother and Father back in 1969, when as part of the very first Twinning event, a group of Cuijk residents visited Maldon. This particular visitor was the oldest member of the Cuijk Town Band, and we have also been given a photograph of him. The donor recalls that the gentleman spoke no English, so conversations with him had to be conducted with the help of a neighbour's daughter, who spoke Dutch.

This particular acquisition is very exciting as 2019 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Twinning Association and special celebratory events are planned in June. Part of this celebration will be a visit to the Museum by a group of visitors from Cuijk, so we plan to welcome them and show them the cigar and the photograph. We are so hoping that one of the visitors will recognise the elderly gentleman and who knows, may even be related to him. As always, never a dull moment working at a Museum.

Well, dear readers, I think that just about wraps it up until the Summer. As Harriet has recovered from her illness and is stepping back into the Accessions role, this report is something of a swansong from me. I am now planning to cease hands-on participation within the Museum apart from the occasional Stewarding and, taking up knitting and short-mat bowls, fade gently into obscurity. Nah – I don't see that floating my boat any time soon. I have started on a book about my Maldon childhood – a warts and all account of a misspent youth – watch this space folks .....  
*Judy Betteridge, President*

## Identifying local heritage assets

Tim Howson, Conversation Officer at Maldon District Council, is currently undertaking a project to identify Local Heritage Assets.

The Maldon District contains over a thousand nationally listed buildings, which are protected by law. It has also been recognised that there are many historic buildings which, although they may not meet the criteria for national listing, possess local value because of their architectural and historic interest.

The District Council is developing a List of Local Heritage Assets to identify and celebrate these locally important buildings. Inclusion on the Register does not of itself bring any additional consent requirements over and above the existing requirement for planning permission, but it does mean that a building's heritage significance will be a material consideration in the planning process.

The following criteria have been developed to help identify those buildings which merit inclusion on the Register of Local Heritage Assets. As with the national list the word building can apply to any type of permanent structure.

### 1. Age and integrity

- a. All buildings which retain a significant degree of pre-1840 architectural character in terms of form, materials and stylistic detailing or for which there is realistic potential for restoration of that character.
- b. 1840-1880 buildings that are reasonably complete and of good local architectural and historic interest
- c. 1880-1945 buildings that are substantially complete and of very good local architectural and historic interest
- d. Post 1945 buildings that are wholly complete and of an outstanding level of local architectural and historic interest
- e. Buildings which are valued as rare examples of a particular type

Apart from the infection from heavily manured land, another reason for the origin of the disease was neglect of cleanliness. It was most important that a cut should be thoroughly cleansed when there was even the slightest possibility of tetanus occurring. Neglect to do this was often fatal. Mr. Robson, chief of the Biological Department of the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture, expressed the opinion that cases of tetanus were more likely to occur in congested areas in the East End of London than in the purely agricultural districts of Essex.

### Use of serum

Our representative was informed at the County Medical Office at Chelmsford that Essex medical practitioners were circularised in 1919 to the effect that supplies of serum can be immediately obtained at the County offices, and since that time 25 applications for supplies have been received and dealt with per the next passenger train. There is an ample supply for all future needs. One Doctor applying for more serum wrote a short time ago "It is a great convenience to be able to get this from you and owing to your promptitude it is a great time saver".

In February 1920, Dr. Harrison dealing with a case of a badly cut thumb in a motor accident at Great Bentley said that evidently the tetanus germ was prevalent in that district and he should use serum in any case coming under his notice. The Ministry of Health advises the injection of anti-tetanus serum in all cases of dirty wounds contaminated with earth from roadways or manured fields, especially punctured wounds or when there is much contusion or laceration.

*Judy Betteridge*

# Lockjaw in Essex

**Most likely causes, ample remedies available**  
(Another excerpt from the Essex Chronicle 1923)

The report in last week's Essex Chronicle of remarks made by a London coroner, that about a dozen cases of deaths from lockjaw which he had had brought to his notice within the last two years had all come from Essex, has created a good deal of discussion in the county, especially among local practitioners who come into direct contact with these cases.

Enquiries made by this paper go to show that the principal dangers in Essex are to be found where the soil is most heavily manured, as in the case of market gardens or highly cultivated small holdings, and these are numerous scattered all over the county. Every facility is provided for the immediate distribution and use of anti-tetanus serum as a prophylactic in dealing with wounds, and this means administered promptly can be relied upon to prevent the disease in practically every case.

## Dr Thresh's advice

Dr JC Thresh, former County Medical Officer of Health, and present Consulting MOH said that it was a fact that tetanus bacilli did grow in soil, especially when it was heavily manured. It was much more likely to be present where there were a number of market gardens. These market gardens abounded round Barking, Romford, and other places in that area. That was the district where most of the cases of tetanus came from.

It was much more dangerous to get a cut while working on soil that was heavily manured than it was on land that was only lightly manured. In such case, however, extreme care should be taken to thoroughly cleanse the wound. The large proportion of cases were infected in heavily manured land. There was however no excessive number of cases in the administrative portion of the county – in fact, cases were very rare indeed. In his 30 years' experience he found that tetanus was no more prevalent in Essex than in any other county.

## 2. Historic interest

- a. Historic association with important national or local historical figures, architects, events or industry
- b. Social or communal importance: relating to structures perceived as a source of local identity and cohesion. (This might include important commemorative structures such as war memorials or places of worship).

## 3. Architectural interest

- a. Important examples of a past type or style
- b. Quality materials, detailing and workmanship
- c. Buildings which display technological innovation
- d. Group Value: Buildings whose local importance derives from their visual relationship with other important buildings in a village or town setting or where they make an important contribution to an historic skyline.
- e. Buildings which make a positive contribution to an attractive rural setting
- f. Sustainability: Buildings which can be easily adapted for continuing use due to robust construction or quality materials

Tim aimed to complete a draft list for Maldon by mid-March. Following that he will be seeking approval to publicly consult on the draft, and there will be a further opportunity for members of the public to comment as part of the public consultation.

For more information, contact [tim.howson@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:tim.howson@maldon.gov.uk)

## Maldon Society talks

Talks are held in the Cygnet Room, behind The Swan Hotel, starting at 7.45pm – Doors open 7.15pm

- May 2<sup>nd</sup>** AGM and presentation, using the Society's Archive and Oral History material on 'The Riverside'.
- June 6<sup>th</sup>** Karl Lumbers FNI Master Mariner – 'The Trinity House Story'.
- July 4<sup>th</sup>** Julian Harrap – 'On the waterfront – an introduction to the culture and architectural conservation in Maldon'.

## Maldon tragedy

### Gallant action saves two lives

### Two men drowned in boating disaster at Maldon

*(An excerpt from the Essex Chronicle in 1923)*

A sad accident occurred on Saturday afternoon which cast quite a gloom over Maldon. The employees, numbering 46, of the firm of Vigor & Co, builders and decorators, Poplar were on their annual outing to the town, and the majority went for a trip on the motorboat 'Maldon Annie'. Four of the party, however, chartered a four-oared rowing boat and proceeded down the River Blackwater. When near the Basin Point and opposite Northey Island, two of them endeavoured to change seats, when the boat overturned, throwing the occupants into the water. Two of the party, Victor Hanson of Poplar and David Taylor of Plaistow – carpenters – hung on to the boat until they were exhausted and compelled to release their hold.

Mr Sidney Smith, a Metropolitan police officer, son of Mr & Mrs Smith of 'Oakwood' High Street, Maldon, and at home on leave, was in a light skiff with Miss W Turner, daughter of Ald. & Mrs Turner, when he noticed the men in difficulties, and with the help of Miss Turner managed by strenuous efforts, and at great risk to himself and Miss Turner, to get the thoroughly exhausted men into their skiff. This was very nearly swamped as there was a very nasty choppy sea running. Mr Walter Keeble then came to the scene and took the men into his sailing boat, and brought them to the Promenade, where after some time they recovered and were able to return home with their party.

The other two men – Joseph Budge of Poplar, and George Wood of Forest Gate – carpenters – were unfortunately drowned. Messrs. T and W Handley, on hearing of the occurrence, at once went at full speed to the spot, but could find only Budge, floating down the river. They brought the body to the Promenade, where artificial respiration was applied by PC Ford and others. Dr Reynolds Brown quickly appeared on the scene and continued the operation, but without success. The body of Wood was recovered at 9.30 pm near Northey Island, where the accident occurred, by Joseph Wright and Walter Grimwade.



— I WISH TO MARK, BY THIS PERSONAL MESSAGE,  
my appreciation of the service you have rendered to your  
Country in 1939—  
In the early days of the War you opened your door to strangers  
who were in need of shelter, & offered to share your home with  
them.  
I know that to this unselfish task you have sacrificed much  
of your own comfort, & that it could not have been achieved  
without the loyal co-operation of all in your household—  
By your sympathy you have earned the gratitude of those to  
whom you have shown hospitality, & by your readiness to  
serve you have helped the State in a work of great value—  
  
Elizabeth R

Mrs. F. L. Stevens.— Sent from the Queen Mother to people who took in evacuees during the War.



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Reverse of membership renewal form

Undoubtedly, but for the promptitude and bravery by Mr Smith, the other two men would have shared the fate of their comrades. Budge leaves a widow and six children, and Wood a widow and one child.

*(and on a happier note, the following excerpt appeared in the Essex Chronicle later that year)*

### **Maldon heroes married**

A pretty wedding took place on Wednesday at All Saints' Church Maldon, where Mr. Sidney Smith was married to Miss Winifred Turner. Both families are well known to the borough, and the bride and bridegroom only recently while rowing on the River Blackwater pluckily rescued two visitors from drowning, two unfortunate companions being drowned. There was a large congregation. The Rev. Seymour, Vicar, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Harling. The bride was daintily attired in ivory Roman satin and georgette, trimmed with silver ribbon and beads, caught up by a spray of orange blossom. She also wore an old lace veil, hand embroidered. She carried a sheaf of blue and white heather, and wore a gold pendant and chain set with turquoise, the gifts of the groom. She was attended by Misses Nellie Humphrey and Dora Lerwin, whose dresses were of powder blue soft satin, trimmed with ribbon and copper coloured beads. They carried bouquets of yellow and bronze chrysanthemums and wore gold bar brooches set with turquoise, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr Kirkpatrick was best man and Mr T Hayes was the organ, and played suitable music including Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

A largely attended reception was held at the Swan Hotel by the bride's parents and the happy couple left for Bournemouth for the honeymoon. There were over 60 presents including a handsome clock from the Sunday School teachers and scholars, and members of the Young People's Guild of All Saints' Church.

(A happy ending to a sombre tale – at the inquest it was noted that at the scene of the boating accident, two men were alleged to have rowed away, refusing to assist and the Coroner commented that the two men, visitors to Maldon, were inhumane and that if they had been present at the inquest, he would have severely censured them) *Judy Betteridge*

## The Essex earthquake of 1884

In April, we can pay attention to the anniversary of one of the more unusual events in the history of Maldon: the earthquake that was felt here in 1884.

It was 9:20am on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1884 that Maldon's residents suddenly experienced violent shaking that they initially thought had been caused by an explosion at the Bentalls' warehouse. In fact, it was one of the most powerful earthquakes ever to hit British soil at that time, hitting the Richter Scale at 5.2 — not enough to create any loss of life, but enough to rock the Old Star Inn's pub cockatoo off its roost! More expensive damage involved broken windows, roof tiles and many clocks all stopping with the hands stuck on twenty past nine.

This earthquake was well regarded as the 'Maldon Earthquake,' however the epicentre had actually been in Colchester. The Essex Field Club published a report in 1885 detailing three distinct waves being seen from the Blackwater and local fishermen hearing the rumbles and thinking they had hit a sandbank. A Maldon metal worker was also said to have been thrown over his work.

Having been a scary and memorable moment in Maldon's history, natural 'disasters' can also be included as part of our history, joining other notables such as the major Viking-Saxon battle of 991, a leper hospital, and Maldon's link to George Washington. There are plenty of surprises to be discovered when you delve into Maldon's history!

*Jonathan Cruickshank*

## Friends of Maldon Museum in the Park

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Name.....

Address.....  
.....

Telephone / mobile.....

Email.....

I/We wish to RENEW Membership of the Friends of Maldon Museum

*Please find enclosed my/our subscription for:*

Single Membership - £10

Single Life Member - £90

Family Membership - £15

Family Life Members - £120

### DATA PROTECTION

I agree that Maldon Museum in the Park may hold my contact details securely in order to communicate with me about the Museum.

*Signature and date:*.....

### Please return to

Membership Secretary – Jenny Sjollema

10 Spinnaker Drive, Heybridge Basin CM9 4UG

*Have you Gift Aided your contribution?*