

Promenade Park gates

FOUR PLAQUES on the gates of the Promenade Park commemorate events in the park's history.

Edward Fitch, Mayor, who died at the age of 58 on 28th June 1912, gave much of the area covered by the present park to the Borough of Maldon in 1895 to provide a recreational park 'for the well being of the people'. The park was officially opened on 26th June 1895. In 1905, the Marine Lake was constructed with the use of unemployed labour from the town. Fitch was a farmer owning lands alongside the River Blackwater and was elected Mayor six times. He was also a politician, writer, historian, scientist, sportsman, farmer and Justice of the Peace who was involved with many local groups. Fitch is buried in St Mary's churchyard.



More about Maldon

St Peter's Tower, Market Hill

Dr Thomas Plume's Library on the first floor is accessed by an ancient spiral staircase in the church tower and houses over 7,000 leather-bound volumes which he bequeathed to Maldon on his death in 1704.

The Maeldune Heritage Centre

The Maldon Millennium Embroidery, a 42-foot work depicts the history of Maldon from 991-1991.

The Maldon Society's photographic archive can display a variety of local photographs on a multimedia screen projector. These include the restoration of the Friary Walled Garden, the Charles Tait collection (local photographer and artist), and the making of the Millennium Embroidery.

Maldon Archaeological & Historical Group's artefacts and information of local archaeological interest are on display, including excavations at Beeleigh Abbey and Elms Farm.

Art and craft exhibitions are held throughout the year and a shop sells local crafts and books.

Maldon Museum in the Park

The museum located in Promenade Park houses a collection reflecting the social, domestic and industrial history of Maldon District over the last two centuries.

Information Boards

can be seen at

- The Promenade Park
- The Maldon Museum
- St Giles Leper Hospital, Maldon's only 'standing' Scheduled Ancient Monument
- The Ware Pond

Maldon District Tourist Information Centre
Wenlock Way, Maldon CM9 5AD

has a supply of local history books and walks leaflets as well as information on local events and places to visit.

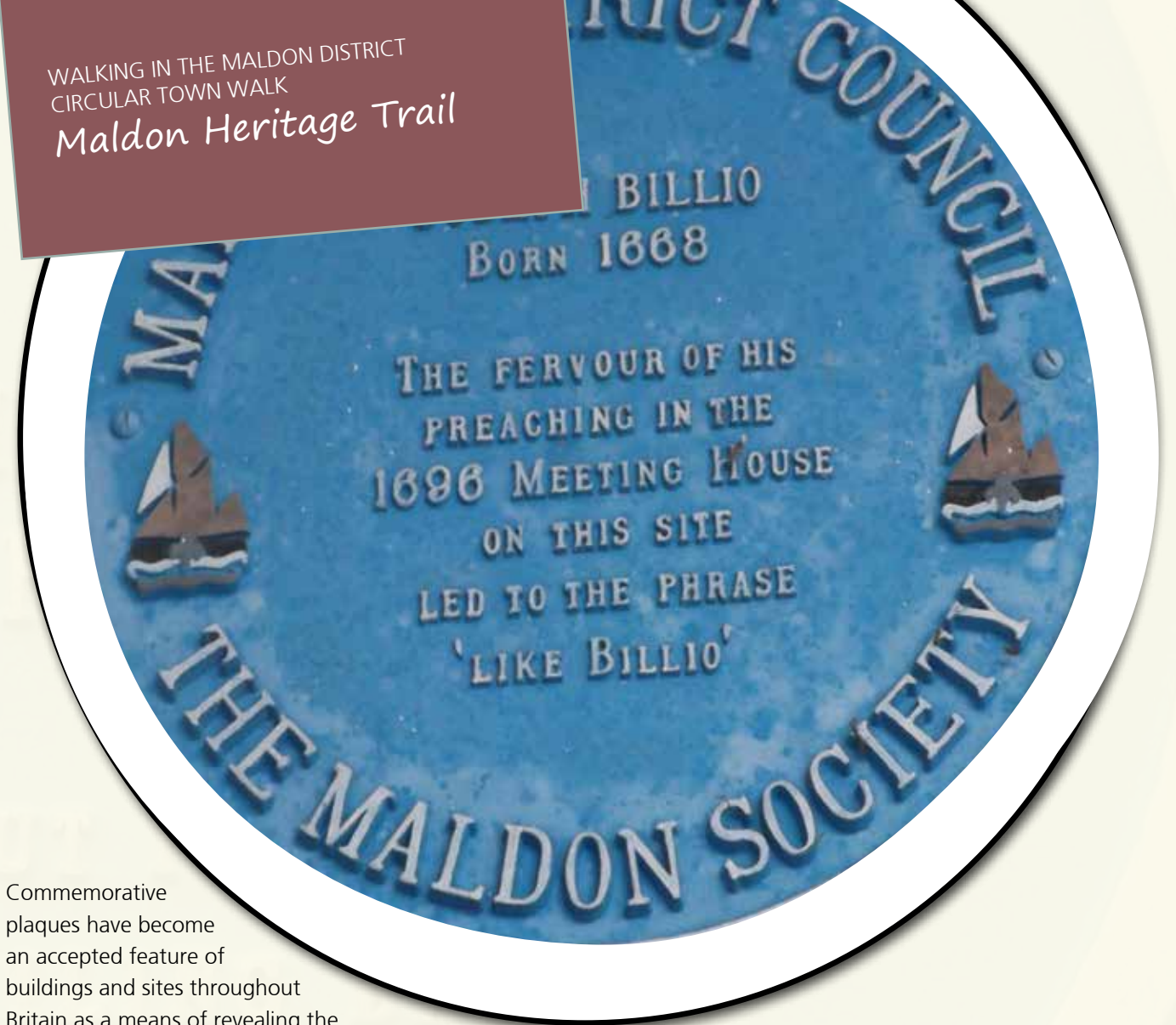
T: 01621 856503 | E: tic@maldon.gov.uk | @MaldonTIC

50p

to cover printing costs

PRODUCED BY MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE MALDON SOCIETY

WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT
CIRCULAR TOWN WALK
Maldon Heritage Trail



Commemorative plaques have become an accepted feature of buildings and sites throughout Britain as a means of revealing the hidden history of our nation and its communities. Here in Maldon, plaques have been installed in a shared project between Maldon District Council and The Maldon Society.



Walking this circular trail around the town, approximately 1¾ miles long, you will see plaques commemorating well-known people or events associated with buildings and the Promenade Park.

visitmaldondistrict.co.uk

BLUE PLAQUE

Church House

1 Edward Bright 1721-1750. The 42 stone 'Fat Man of Maldon' lived here and is buried in All Saints' Church. For many years it was thought that this house was the home of the grocer Edward Bright (1721-50), the famous 'Fat Man of Maldon', but recent research* has revealed that the house was actually built in c1770 by his son Edward (c1743-90). Edward junior, like his famous father, was a grocer. He was also a linen draper, candle maker and salt maker. His final business venture, in 1789-90, was the construction of a salt-water bath, on the banks of the Blackwater. He was active in local politics and, in 1779, became leader of Maldon's Whigs. The same research has also revealed that 'Fat Man' Edward lived and traded in a house and shop in the High Street, a short distance west of the junction with Market Hill. The house and shop were destroyed by fire in 1892 and the site is now occupied by premises numbers 57 and 59 High Street. When Edward died in November 1750 he weighed well over 40 stone. He left three young children and his widow, Mary, expecting another. His remains are interred in a vault in All Saints' Church; a memorial stone near the tower entrance marks the spot. Immediately after his death his immense girth was commemorated in prints, many of which survive in the town in private collections. A replica of his enormous waistcoat depicted in the prints may be seen in Maldon Museum, near Promenade Park entrance (no.7 on map). He is also commemorated in the Maldon Embroidery in the Maeldune Heritage Centre and by a fine bronze relief in the King's Head Centre. Visit the bronze relief, created by local artist Catharni Stern, to learn more about the famous wager which took place after his death.*J R Smith, The Borough of Maldon 1688-1800: a Golden Age, 2013.



BLUE PLAQUE

Reverend Joseph Billio

2 The Reverend Joseph Billio, born 1668, preached at the meeting house on this site in 1696 to 400 Protestant Dissenters.

It was through the enthusiasm and fervour of his teaching that the phrase 'like Billio' came into the English language. His portrait hangs in the vestry.



BLACK COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

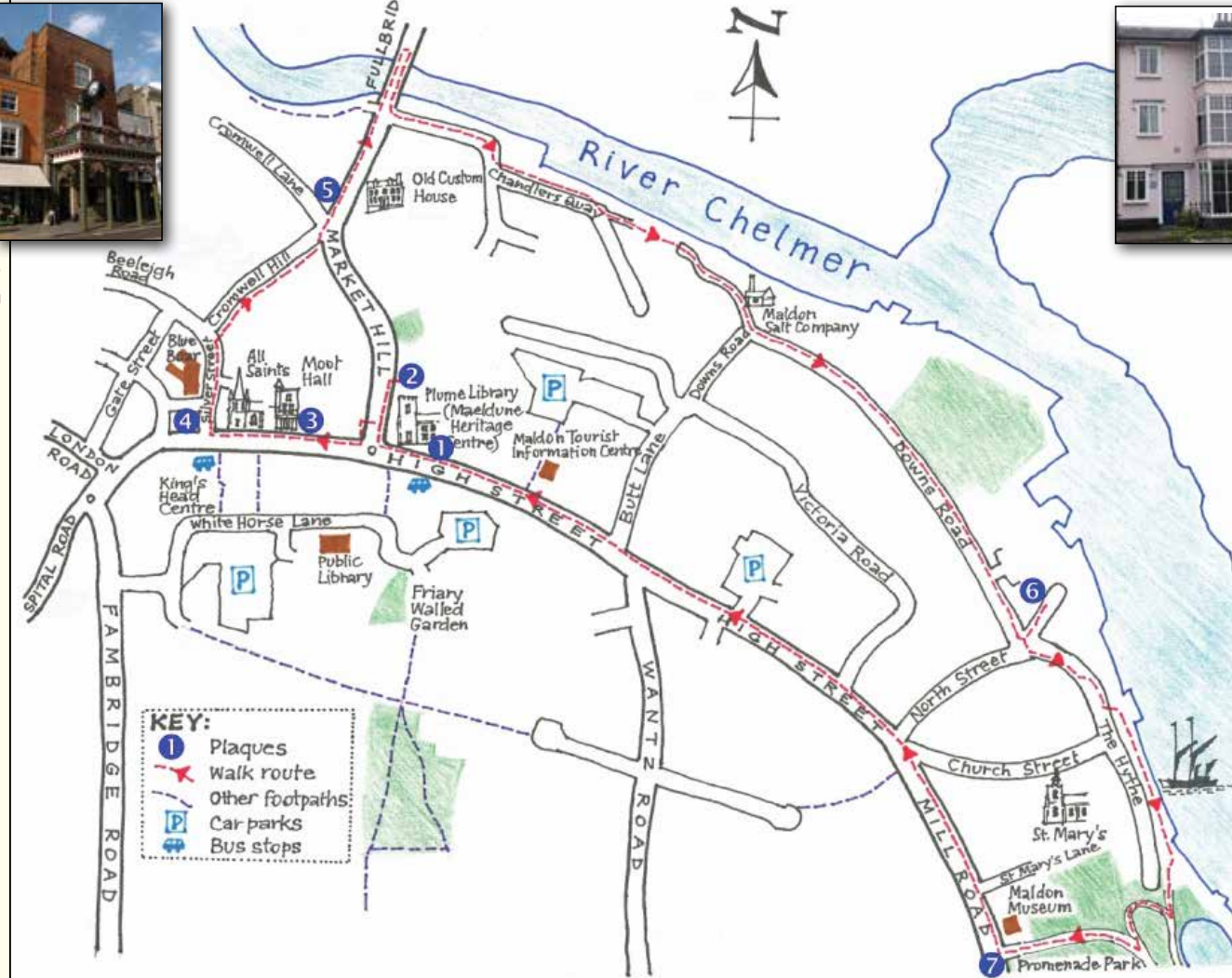
Present Moot Hall

3 Maldon was one of only two boroughs in Essex recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 AD. This commemorative plaque was unveiled on the Borough's 900th anniversary by the Town Mayor, Cllr K S Munnion. The Moot Hall (D'Arcy's Tower) is Maldon's most historically important secular building. The Grade I listed building, with its familiar town clock, started life as part of a larger private mansion owned by Sir Robert D'Arcy (1385-1448), Sheriff, Member of Parliament for Maldon, and wealthy merchant.

The brick part of the building was purchased by the Corporation of Maldon for the princely sum of £55 in 1576. The Georgian portico was added in 1810 with the railings being fitted in 1905. The building incorporates a police cell and exercise yard (scratched with prisoner graffiti), 19th century Court Room, Council Chamber and wonderful rooftop panoramic views of the town, the river and the surrounding countryside.

You can view the Newell staircase, a masterpiece of medieval bricklayers' art, and see the opulent mace, one of the finest and largest in England paid for by Maldon's First Mayor, John Pond, in 1687. The town clock with its familiar five-bell chimes was presented in 1881 by George Courtauld, the last MP for the Borough. The Seal of Admiralty gave Maldon the right to form a Court of Admiralty in 1528 which allowed cases of trespass and disputes involving fishing rights and shipwrecks to be heard in the town. The seal can be seen in the Hall.

For tours please call 07711 985 540.



BLUE PLAQUE

Original Moot Hall

4 Maldon's Moot Hall with underlying Market Place occupied this site. Its courts and meeting rooms were transferred in 1576 to D'Arcy Tower - the present Moot Hall.

A medieval building used for public meetings and town business stood here, its name coming from the Saxon word for an assembly. The old Moot Hall had an open market hall at ground level, with meeting place over, and was subsequently demolished.



BLUE PLAQUE

Union Workhouse

5 Built with proceeds from Thomas Plume, a local benefactor, this building served as Maldon's workhouse 1719-1835. After enlargement by John Sadd, a local business merchant, it was known as The Spike and became the Union Workhouse until 1873.

The original workhouse was intended only to take inmates of All Saints, St Peter's and St Mary's Parishes. In 1841, the Union Workhouse listed 80 males and 96 females, including 19 boys and 14 girls under 10 years, together with a master and his wife and son, and a schoolmaster and schoolmistress. In 1873, the building was converted into houses and a new improved 'Union House' was built on a site in Spital Road, which is now St Peter's Hospital.



BLUE PLAQUE

John Howard's home

6 John Thomas Howard, 1849-1915, Master Ship-Builder lived here. The prolific output from his yard included 22 sailing barges.

John Howard was a qualified architect who was best known for his stackie barges. His first barge, the Surprise, was completed in 1879 followed by many others. Their destination was usually one of the London wharves where the stacks of hay were taken off and transported straight to the stables. When they were loaded, the barges resembled floating haystacks. After harvest time, it was usual to find about sixteen barges waiting for repairs and refits at Howard's yard. Unlike many barge builders, Howard prepared plans for his barges, and often made scale models before construction. The adjacent buildings housed his office and workshop. Please go to the Hythe Quay to see the many Thames Sailing Barges moored there.

