

The Maldon Society

Blue Plaque Walk

This walk is approximately 2 miles starting at **The Maeldune Heritage Centre, Market Hill, Maldon**

which houses both The Maldon Society's photographic Archive and Oral History recordings. **The Maeldune Heritage Centre** is in



the former Parish Church, a Grade II listed building, with churchyard and gardens outside for visitors to view. In the Centre there is a craft shop, with a selection of books, gifts, cards, and local produce.

Photographs and drawings – View local photographs and pen and ink drawings on the Maldon Society's digital screen.

These include the Charles Tait collection (local photographer and artist), a video on the history of Maldon Sea Salt and a video in which Humphrey Spender talks through the making of the Maldon Millennium Embroidery.



Oral History recordings - Our collection of over sixty recordings relate the experiences of some of those who worked on the embroidery as well as childhood memories of growing up and working in Maldon.



You can listen to a selection of short extracts at our Listening Station or on our website www.maldonsoc.org

Heritage Centre exhibition area – This changes regularly and displays work of local artists. The Maldon Embroidery panels, which measure 42 feet in length, portray the life and times of the town in the thousand years since The Battle of Maldon 991 to 1991. Eighty-six volunteer embroideresses worked on the embroidery between 1987 and 1990.

The walk

This Blue Plaque Walk provides an opportunity to see many reminders of the legacy of Maldon's famous characters. Though many of the buildings now serve different purposes, blue plaques help to recognize and preserve their stories.

On leaving the Centre, turn to the right and walk a little way down Market Hill. Set back on the right you will see the **United Reformed Church**.



On the wall of the portico, added in 1876, you'll find a **Blue Plaque commemorating the Reverend Joseph Billio**. It was through the enthusiasm and fervour of his preaching that the phrase 'like Billio' may have come into the English language.

Walk down the right-hand side of the Church and you will see **the memorial to the Sadd family** in the shape of a tree trunk in the corner of the graveyard. John Sadd, Myra's father, was senior deacon of the Church.



Walking down Market Hill you will see on the left **Hill House, owned by the Sadd family**.



In the grounds of Hill House stood 'The Rest', founded by Henrietta Sadd to provide holidays for poor London women.

At the bottom of the hill on the opposite side of the road to Market Hill Gardens, is the site of **the Union Workhouse (Blue Plaque)** built with funds bequeathed by Dr Thomas Plume. This building served as Maldon's workhouse in 1834 and continued until 1873 when a new improved Union Workhouse in Spital Road was opened, which is now St Peter's Hospital.



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. The original building was converted into apartments.

Carefully cross the road and walk up Cromwell Hill. At the top, turn right and walk along Beeleigh Road past a row of terraced cottages.

At the end of the road on the left you will see **Mount View, a property owned by the Sadd family**. The family home is



crowned by an octagonal belvedere which provides magnificent views to Sadd's Wharf. The family could see barges arriving from the Baltic and alert workers to get ready to unload timber.

Cross the road and walk up a narrow lane, West Chase. The surface of this unmade lane is uneven, so walk carefully. After about 50 yards, on the right you will see a **blue plaque secured to one of the gate posts** to Mount View. **The plaque is in recognition of Myra Eleanor Sadd Brown**, a



renowned suffragette and campaigner for women's rights, who lived here until her marriage.

On reaching the top of The Chase, turn left and continue along London Road to the Town Sign. Then turn left into the High Street.

After passing All Saints' Church, you will come to the **Grade I listed Moot Hall (D'Arcy's Tower with Black Plaque)**. This building is Maldon's most historically important secular building.



The building incorporates a police cell and exercise yard, 19th century court room, Council Chamber and panoramic rooftop views. The town clock with its five bell chimes was presented in 1881 by George Courtauld MP. (Tours of the Hall can be arranged)

The buildings at 57 and 59 High Street (marked by a Blue Plaque) were home to Edward Bright senior, the 'fat man at Maldon' When Edward died in November 1750, he weighed well over 40 stones.



His remains are interred in a vault in All Saints' Church. He left three young children and his widow, Mary, expecting another. He is commemorated in the Maldon Embroidery and a replica of his enormous waistcoat can be seen in Maldon Museum in the Park, near Promenade Park Entrance. (J R Smith The Borough of Maldon 1688-1800 a Golden Age 2013)

Continue to walk down the High Street and using the crossing at the top of Market Hill continue until you came to **Church House (opposite W H Smiths)**.



Here you will find a Blue Plaque on the wall of the house revealing this was the home of Edward Bright (junior), who like his father was a grocer. He was also a linen draper, candle maker and salt maker.

His final 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. (J R Smith The Borough of Maldon 1688-1800 a Golden Age 2013)

Continuing all the way down the High Street until opposite The Black Rabbit pub, turn left into North Street, walk down to where the road forks.

Then continue walking straight ahead - you can see the jetty/river. A little way down on the left, Number 61 is the former home of **John Howard (1849-1915) (Blue Plaque)**, a qualified naval architect and one of Maldon's most famous barge builders.



He was best known for his 'stackie' barges, known as 'hay up and dung down' because the barges were loaded with hay and straw at Maldon and returned with London horse muck for the clay fields by the River Blackwater.

Please retrace your steps to the junction, turn left and walk to the Hythe Quay to see the many Thames sailing barges moored there. Follow along the lane to the Promenade Park (entrance just along from the Hythe Quay). Edward Fitch, Mayor, 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'. He officially opened the park on 26th June 1895. We hope you have enjoyed your walk.

