

The summer of 1911 saw a major change throughout the country as the Edwardian era came to an end with the death of Edward VII. In June, the new monarch, George V, was crowned and the July parish magazine records how Marden celebrated the coronation:

“In the first place we dressed the village in flags and bunting till it was quite transformed by the fluttering colours everywhere... At 12.15 the children of the Church Sunday Schools...gathered at the Vicarage. There was a pleasant surprise for them there, for Mrs Johnson’s mother, Mrs Henry Taylor, has very kindly sent a very pretty medal and ribbon for each...after we had finished all the sausage rolls provided and had given three cheers for Mrs Taylor, we marched off with our Sunday School banner at the head. The children made quite an imposing procession, their lines dotted here and there with many flags.

...The old people, under the care of Mrs Johnson and a large Committee of helpers, had an excellent banquet in a large tent. 193 received invitations and about 160 were able to accept...The children...were particularly charmed with the bananas. I did hear that one gallant young sportsman ate six... In another tent was Mrs Crowhurst with a large band of helpers making things happy for all parents with more than three children.

After the refreshments came sports. . . There were races for the old and for the young, football marches, tilting the bucket, goal running...ending with a wonderful display of fireworks...There was a sweet stall and a tent where you could buy a tea but no intoxicants.

Meanwhile the Church Bells gave us music at intervals and brightened all the proceedings. The only drawback was the drizzle. It might have been worse but it was not exhilarating.”

JANE STEVENS

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2008

AT 8PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, OLD SCHOOLROOM

Ian Coulson

Slavery in Kent

For detailed information about the village don't forget to visit Marden's very own website Marden Online at www.marden.org.uk

The Parish Pump is distributed free to members of The Marden Society every two months



For details of membership please contact the Hon Secretary Edith Davis on 01622 831904

The Parish Pump

The Journal of The Marden Society

July 2008

Putting Bateman's to Bed

If you don't like woodworm, carpet beetle, silverfish or similar pests, or want to know how to you preserve a pickled finger, which is 120 years old - why not ask the National Trust?

At the May meeting, Gary Enstone, the Property Manager of Bateman's gave the audience some fascinating tips into how the NT preserves and cleans its objects. And it doesn't spend a fortune on some of the preparations that are used!

The NT attracts about 75 to 80,000 people annually, with sometimes 600 children at one time turning up for a special event - a lot of feet and humidity. Only 1,000 hours of sunlight only is allowed each year, hence the sometimes dimmed lighting and drawn curtains.

Bateman's has around 175,000 objects, each one having a report on its annual condition. There are 2,000,000 articles in somewhere like Chartwell!

Winter light does as much damage as summer light, so UV filters are replaced every 5-8 years. Much of the maintenance

work is done by the light of Goliath lamps, which have no UV or infra red impact.

Humidity of 65-50% is the ideal - over 65% can lead to mould and fungi, metal corrosion and shrinkage of tapestries. The relative humidity is controlled automatically and any lows or highs are instantly communicated to Gary, the Manager.



And so to the pests mentioned above. A solution of 50% paraffin and 50% vinegar is washed over the area - forget specialist pest control companies. Death Watch Beetles got their name because the female tapping to attract the male became associated with houses containing plague victims. Luckily the latter pest is also eradicated by the

solution suggested.

For floors use Harrell's Soft Wax or Renaissance wax on larger surfaces. Stone floors are cleaned with Boot's Solution for Sensitive Skin. Carpets are vacuumed on both sides then rolled up and wrapped in acid free paper with dust sheets - however Bateman's carpets are not valuable enough

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to merit this careful treatment.

Silver forks for example are cleaned, prong by prong with cocktail sticks and cotton wool buds, wiped with a damp cloth, Silver Dipped, then another damp cloth, then dried. A very lengthy job. Ceramics are never immersed in water, and only cotton gloves are used and volunteers dust books on a 3-year rota. Only the outsides, never the pages.

Gary described a job that carried out at home would be fairly simple: that of changing the curtains. Not so in NT properties. It involves scaffolding- after removing the carpet, protecting the

plasterwork and any other ornamentation in the room. He had a picture of the job being carried out to prove it.

For the first time Bateman's will be open over the Christmas period, reducing the time for restoration and cleaning.

Gary has a large book containing all these tips and can answer almost any question. However his 'bible' failed him once when a friend in Forensics wanted to know how to continue preserving a finger in a jar (dating from the 1890s). Defeated by this, Gary would love to hear from anyone who knows what she should do.

MAUREEN CLAYTON

A MARDEN TRAGEDY

Almost 80 years ago, in April 1929, there occurred a tragedy in Marden that some people can remember still: the murder and suicide of an entire family.

It happened in Albion Road in a shop known as "The Stores"; not Taylor's stores where the Tandoori now is, but opposite Stanley's garage, roughly where the Parish Pump stands. I can still remember the ruin of the shop standing in the 1960's, with the burnt and blackened legend "Fry's Cocoa" on the broken window glass. The Kentish Express contemporary to the tragedy takes up the story:

"Never perhaps in the history of the Weald has there been a sadder or more terrible calamity than that, which in the silent hours of the night, - between midnight and two o'clock on Friday, wiped out an entire family of four persons at

Marden. In this distressing tragedy there was none of the morbid features which figure in so many tragedies, but all evolved out of a father's mental breakdown through worry,

intensified by the fear of his daughter's death from consumption, a disease which was described as "the curse of the family".

Although the house in which the tragedy took place is situated almost in the centre of the village, except for a noise like the snapping of pieces of box wood, which was heard by a next door neighbour, no sound appears to have reached the outside world and the peaceful

village continued wrapped in sleep, oblivious to the awful drama that had taken place in their midst.

It was Saturday night, in consequence of none of his family having been seen during

the day, that a lad, named Charles Hooker [Irving's dad] gave information to the local police constable, who entered the shop in the Albion Rd., known as The Stores, and on going upstairs discovered the four occupants lying dead in the bedrooms with shot wounds in the head.

The names of the victims are: Mr Samuel William Daw, aged 53; Rosina Daw, (his wife), aged 49; Nellie Vera Daw (daughter) aged 18; Samuel William Daw, (son) aged 17.

The mother, daughter and son were all lying in bed and had evidently been killed in their sleep and upon the floor of one of the two bedrooms lay the body of the father with a breech-loading pistol clenched between his knees. The constable immediately communicated with Superintendent White of Cranbrook, and subsequent investigation made it clear that

the distracted father had first shot his wife and children and then himself.

Mr Daw was for 18 years postmaster of Heathfield Towers sub-post office, Sussex, succeeding his father in that position. Having had a nervous breakdown he gave up that position and went to Crowborough, where he carried on a general business for a short time.

He then bought a little business in Albion Road, Marden, where he went to reside some eighteen months ago. The business dwindled down, his daughter became ill and with the family sceptre of consumption ever looming before him, he became depressed. His daughter continued to get worse and his distracted condition ultimately culminated in the awful tragedy which brought the family to their untimely end."

GRAHAM TIPPEN

SOME STRANGE LAWS OF OLD ENGLAND

The Red Flag Act, as the Locomotives on Highways Act 1865 is known, required that any vehicle - other than those which relied upon horse power - travelling on the road should be preceded by a man on foot carrying a red flag at a distance of not less than 60 yards; a maximum speed of two miles an hour was allowed in town and four miles an hour in the country; and the vehicle had to stop instantly if a horse-rider or the driver of a horse-drawn vehicle raised their hand. The fine for any such offences was a maximum of £10.

These provisions were repealed for light vehicles in 1896 and the top speed was raised to 14 miles an hour. On 28 January 1896 Walter Arnold of East Peckham, Kent, became the first man to be prosecuted for

speeding when he was caught doing eight miles an hour in a built-up area by a traffic policeman who pursued him on a bike. Exceeding the urban speed limit by a massive six miles an hour, he was fined one shilling - 5p.

In 1903, the speed limit was raised to 20 miles an hour on the open road, ten in town, but not before speed traps had been introduced in England the previous year. In an effort to crack down on reckless drivers, policemen were stationed behind hedges with stopwatches and bicycles.

One of the earliest offenders, caught doing a breakneck 12 miles an hour, was Lord Montague of Beaulieu. His son is the present Lord Montague, whose collection of vintage cars now forms the nucleus of The National Motor Museum EDITH DAVIS