

## THE BOMBING OF MALDEN BY ... NUCLEAR BOMBS! or WHAT'S IN A NAME?

(David Henry: June 2022)

### Introduction

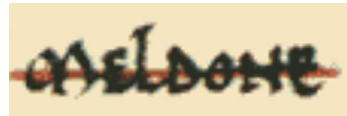
The focus of the Society is on the former borough of The Maldens and Coombe. This paper examines the etymology and occurrence of the two parts of the name.

### MALDEN

Let us first put to rest the fiction that our Malden is mentioned in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle. The Chronicle is a series of Annals ie a year-by-year account of events. It was compiled in the late 9C and copies of it made in various monasteries. There exist today nine such documents and some of those are fragmentary. They sometimes also contradict one another. Scholars have compiled them into a cohesive account, noting differences, and translated the Chronicle into modern English. I have checked one such translation and found that "Surrey" is mentioned, each time only in a single sentence, and in only three years: 823, 853, and 1011. The references to "Maeldune" are equally scarce: 920, 921, and 993. In all three cases, it is clear from the context that it is Maldon, Essex that is being referred to.

This is reinforced by a famous Anglo-Saxon poem I read (in translation) many years ago and which stuck in my mind as an example of manipulation of the truth (I had recently read Bacon's essay "On Truth" which opens with "What is truth?" said Pontius Pilate, and would not stay for an answer"). In essence, in August 991 an invading army of Vikings landed on an island (probably Northey Island) in the Blackwater estuary. The only way to the mainland was via a tidal causeway and that was guarded by Anglo-Saxon warriors. Such was the honour of the Anglo-Saxons (the poem would have us believe) that they acceded to the request of the invaders to be allowed to cross the causeway so that battle could be joined on equal terms. The invaders crossed the causeway unharmed, battle ensued, and the Anglo-Saxons were defeated. The victors were bought off with the considerable sum of 3,300 lbs of silver.

We are on much firmer ground with a later reference. The name occurs, spelled "Meldone", three times in the Surrey volume of the Domesday Book of 1086, William the Conqueror's detailed and careful listing of what his conquest had brought him, who owned what and the value of the land and all that was on it. These references are definitely to our Malden.



Note that the first pic above has lower case letters whereas the other two are uppercase (see the "d"s and "l"s in particular) and struck through in red: while the second two are part of headings, the first is merely a reference. Letters "e" and "n" seem not yet to have developed separate cases.

But what of the name itself? I've read that "Malden" comes from Anglo-Saxon "mael" and "dun", the former meaning "cross" and the latter, "hill", the supposition being that where the Church of St John the Baptist, Old Malden now stands there once stood a cross indicating a Christian site and/or community.

The entry on the cognate "Maldon" in Essex, in the "Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names" confirms this.

I've long been puzzled by this as, from my interest in churches, I know that the Anglo-Saxon/Old English word for the Crucifix is "Rood": I'd even read the Old English mystical poem "The Dream of the Rood". I've visited some of the few English churches which retain an ancient rood-screen separating nave from chancel and some even rarer ones where the rood remains atop the screen. I also recognise the difference between the bare cross and the crucifix, the cross with Jesus nailed to it. So I decided to delve deeper.

"Mael", it is said, comes from the word for "cross" or "crucifix". However, it also means "monument" and surely that was its earlier, pre-Christian meaning. (We see a similar extension of a word's usage in, for example, "gondola", the Venetian boat, where it became used also for the cabin under an airship and also the cabins in cableways: presumably their shape reminded people of the Venetian vessel). It seems that the location of a "mael" was also the outdoor meeting place for community discussions and perhaps judicial hearings in those times when even those "mead-halls" mentioned in "Beowulf" would only have existed in larger communities. This connection between the "mael" as a monument and also a place for discussion meant that the word came to take on the ancillary meaning of "speech" in Anglo-Saxon and that, in slightly altered form, we may retain the word in "blackmail" via a rather convoluted etymology from which I'll spare you.

But what of "dun/dune/dune"? The "dun" comes from the word for "hill": it is preserved today in "dune", a small hill of sand. It is a word also found in Celtic languages and having a similar connotation of height as it means "hillfort". It is found in many placenames in Ireland (eg Dún Laoghaire) and Scotland (eg Dundee), and also, slightly altered to "dinas", in place names in Cymru (eg Dinas Mawddwy). Closer to home, the North and South "Downs" were originally called "Dunes".

The placename "Malden" is unique in the UK: the only sites derive directly from it and are local viz Old Malden, New Malden, Malden Manor and, just a few miles away, Malden Rushett. The last takes its name from the fact that the area was a detached part of the Parish of Malden until 1884 when it was transferred to the Parish of Chessington.

However, if we broaden our horizon to Europe, we discover that in the Netherlands there is also a Malden, a town due south of Nijmegen. This town of about 12,000 people is only ten metres above sea level so any hill there would be tiny! The first mention of the place dates from 1247 when it was recorded as the village of "de Maldene". "De" is one of the Dutch words for "the". According to a Dutch etymological dictionary, the meaning of the name is "The people's court/meeting place".

It seems to me that our Malden, a place marked with a cross and perhaps, in earlier pagan times, some other monument (most likely a large stone), was the site where the locals would assemble for community business, rather like a local council, or perhaps a moot, a court. Maybe the Dutch have got it right.

Let's now cast our net globally. We find other Maldens: a single instance in Canada, another in the Pacific nation of Kiribati, and seven in the USA.

## **Canada**

In Amherstburg, Ontario, is Fort Malden. The fort was actually formally named Fort Amherstburg but, because it was in the township of Malden, it came to be called Fort Malden and the name has stuck. The centre of modern day Malden lies eleven miles to the north (ANNEX A).

But is there any connection to our Malden? I fear not: Malden is in Essex County just fifteen miles from the county town of Essex, which strongly argues for Maldon, Essex as the "mother" town.

## **Kiribati**

First, an interesting fact the relevance of which will emerge later. This mid-Pacific island nation is pronounced "Kiribass". I was once told by an Foreign and Commonwealth Office chap who'd once been posted there that the reason for the odd spelling was this. A missionary to the archipelago decided to translate the Bible into the local language and have it produced in book form. He first had to type out his translation. Unfortunately, the "S" key on his typewriter was broken so he determined that he would use the combination "ti" to represent the letter "S".

Now back to Malden. This isn't the place to go into detail but surnames as we know them today were introduced by the Normans. The idea took quite a while to become widespread: the many Johns, James, Pauls etc would be distinguished by their occupation. Thus John the Baker, John the Carter etc: in time the "the" would be dropped. Perhaps because of the prevalence of a few surnames eg Jones, Williams, Evans etc, such identification persists in Cymru hence Evans the Milk etc.

The surname "Malden" is toponymic ie it derives from a place where a family once lived or had some other connection. It may be a grandee who has land there or an ordinary family who, moving to another district, might be identified as "of Malden" with the "of" being dropped in time. Perhaps the most famous person to bear the surname was that fine character actor and Winner of an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor (in "A Streetcar Named Desire"), Karl Malden. So what was his connection with our Malden? Alas, none. Actors often changed their birthnames to ones deemed more suitable - Marion Robert Morrison became John Wayne; Archibald Alexander Leach became Cary Grant - and Karl Malden was born Mladen George Sekulovich: it's clear where "Malden" came from!

A far more convincing case was a family that lived in Putney, just a few miles away, where, on 9 August 1797, was born Charles Robert Malden, the son of a surgeon. At the age of eleven (!), Charles joined the Royal Navy. Over the next seventeen years, Charles served in many parts of the world until eventually passing examinations in mathematics and navigation in 1816 and being promoted to the officer class as a First Lieutenant in 1818. He served a further eight years as a Surveyor aboard Royal Navy ships before retiring and setting up various schools on the South Coast. He died in 1855.

What is relevant to our story is his one and a half years as Surveyor on HMS Blonde. The ship had the sad task of returning to Hawaii (then known as the Sandwich Islands) the bodies of the Hawaiian King and Queen who had died of measles on their visit to England. Having fulfilled that duty, HMS Blonde sailed for home. En route, on 30 July 1825, an uninhabited island was spotted and Malden was put ashore to explore it. Subsequently, the ship's Captain, Lord Byron (a cousin of the poet) named the island in honour of the young man.

This was not the first time that Malden Island had been seen by non-Polynesians. In March of the same year the whalers on the Nantucket ship "Alexander" had seen the island but were unable to land. The captain recorded that two earlier sightings had been made by other whalers, the "Sarah Ann" of London and the "Independence" of Nantucket. Polynesians had previously lived on the island as was evident from archaeological remains found there.

Later in the century and, indeed, up to 1927, the island was exploited for its deposits of guano, bird droppings that were used as fertiliser. Such was the economic importance of this substance that in 1856 the USA passed the Guano Islands Act which permitted US citizens to take possession of such uninhabited islands in the name of the USA. An American company laid claim to Malden Island on that basis but an Australian company beat them to it under a British licence. The USA continued to claim the island, and others in the region, until as late as 1983.

Located a long way due south of Hawaii, Malden Island is one of the Line Islands, a long series of atolls that are in turn part of a more widespread group of islands once known as the British Colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands part of which, including Malden Island, became the Republic of Kiribati in 1979. But important events took place prior to independence.

The main island in the republic is called Kiritimati. Now pronounce it following the guide given in the first paragraph of this section...

Many readers will recall Christmas Island as the site in 1957 of the UK's first series of thermonuclear (ie H-bomb) tests. While it was the case that the tests were managed from Christmas Island, the point chosen as the target and instrumentation site was at the south point of Malden Island some 420 miles away: the bombs were detonated at high altitude.

Today Malden Island has great economic significance for Kiribati and considerable ecological importance for the world. The economic importance arises from the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone that Kiribati enjoys around each of its islands. The ecological role played by this 15 square mile, still-uninhabited island is as the Malden Island Wildlife Sanctuary, an important seabird nesting site that is closed to casual visitors.

## USA

There are seven Maldens in the USA. However, three of them definitely derive their name from the largest place with the name: Malden, Massachusetts.

### Malden, Massachusetts

Malden is a city of about 60,000 located in Middlesex County and is five miles northwest of Boston. It is, by American standards, of considerable vintage as it was founded in 1649 by Puritans who had purchased land off the local Native Americans in 1640. The place figures in American history as, according to the city's website, it "was the first town to petition the colonial government to withdraw from the British Empire".

But can our Malden lay claim to be "mother" of this Malden (and, by extension, the Maldens in Indiana, Washington State, and West Virginia (see below)).

The town's website states:

*The name "Malden" was chosen by Joseph Hills, an early settler and landholder, who emigrated from Maldon, England.*

Why "Malden" and "Maldon"? There seem to me to be a number of possibilities:

- a. Spelling was indeterminate at that time;
- b. It was originally spelled "Maldon" but at some point changed to "Malden", perhaps through a transcription error that stuck;
- c. The website is wrong and Hills actually came from our Malden.

These possibilities are not entirely mutually exclusive.

Further investigation was needed so I delved into various ancestry websites and, sadly, found that Joseph Hills was indeed from Maldon, Essex. So we cannot lay claim to this historic place nor to the following named for it:

### Malden, Indiana

This small community dates from 1909.

### Malden, Washington State

This town in Whitman County has a population of only about 200 in an area of about two-thirds of a square mile. It was established as a railway stop and named by railway officials after Malden, Massachusetts. Much of the town was destroyed in a wildfire in 2020.

### Malden, West Virginia

In Kanawha County and originally named Kanawha Salines, this community changed its name to Malden in 1879. And, yes, the evidence points to it probably being named after Malden, Massachusetts. Its claim to fame is Booker T Washington, a notable African-American leader of the early 20C. The "Salines" in the original name referred to salt production using slave labour.

But what of the three remaining?

### Malden, Missouri (which also has a stream called Malden Hollow)

This community is in Dunklin County in the northeast of the State. Though named a city, this Malden has a population of only about 4,000. Malden was "platted" in 1877 by a railway official: "plating" is the formal registration of a piece of land in the USA. The origin of the name Malden for this city is a matter of dispute: either it, too, was named for Malden, Massachusetts or was named for a county judge, Colonel T H Mauldin. If the latter, one has to wonder why it isn't named "Mauldin"! That surname is, however, toponymic, deriving from either Maldon, Essex or our Malden. It is a rare family name in England today: one incidence in North Yorkshire, five in Wiltshire, two in London, and fifteen in Essex. Given that Essex preponderance, it seems likely that the US Maudlin family came from Maldon and that our Malden cannot lay claim, even indirectly, to this Malden.

### Malden, Illinois

The small village of Malden lies about 85 miles west of Chicago and is in Bureau County in the north of the State. It has an area of about a quarter of a square mile with a population of only about 400 . The population size is about the same as it was at the time of the 1880 Census.

In my pursuit, I consulted three very substantial tomes and one slimmer volume made available as PDFs by Illinois State and accessed through the Bureau County official website viz

"Reminiscences of Bureau County" by Nehemiah Matson (1872)

"History of Bureau County, Illinois" by H C Bradsby (1885)

"Past and Present of Bureau County, Illinois" by George B Harrington (1906)

"A Pioneer Tour of Bureau County, Illinois" by Doris Parr Leonard (1954)

In the combined total of over 2,000 pages, I found only two references to "Malden": brief notes of the birth of one individual and the education of another. I wrote to the County Council some time ago to see if the derivation of the name Malden appears in any of their records. They have not responded so I fear we must, at best, regard any link to our Malden as unproven. Should I be contacted, I will amend this paper. But I'm not holding my breath.

### Malden, New York State

Another diminutive community of about 400 in an area of about half a square mile. Malden-on-Hudson, to give it its full title, is located in Ulster County, New York State, on the west bank of the Hudson River. I got excited when I found that a mere twelve miles south along the Hudson was the city of...Kingston! Kingston has a population of about 23,000 and is the county seat.

Malden-on-Hudson is part of the larger settlement of Saugerties and I found that there is a Saugerties Historical Society. I e-mailed them, setting out my mission, and working with great speed, Marjorie contacted Betsy and Paul. Paul then responded within one day (!) of my request with not only an e-mail but also pics of books on their local history, a PowerPoint presentation he'd made on the history of Malden, and even relevant extracts from the books. A most generous response for which I have thanked him. I have prepared a digest of information he supplied (**ANNEX B**).

It seems to me that there are three intriguing possibilities for the naming of this Malden:

a. a mere repetition of what occurred in Massachusetts, Indiana, Washington State, and West Virginia ie Maldon in Essex being the progenitor;

b. a naming after Malden in the Netherlands, given the Dutch heritage in the area; or

c. a naming after our Malden, given not only that it formerly had the English name of Bristol but also because the county seat is Kingston. Kingston had been founded by the Dutch as Esopus (after the Native American inhabitants of the area) and in 1661 renamed Wiltwijck (Wiltwyck). Not long after, the British took over this extensive Dutch colony of New Netherlands (the area of the Hudson River Valley) and there was a wholesale renaming. New Amsterdam became New York and two other chief towns were also renamed: Beverwyck became Albany and in 1669 Wiltwijck became Kingston, named in honour of the family seat of Anne Barne, mother of General Lovelace who was the second Governor of New York Colony. (I will leave to others

pursuing this possible link: "Kingston" looked promising (but perhaps it is not our Kingston) as did "Lovelace" (given Lovelace Gardens, Surbiton, and other family connections with the area, but the issue is confused as there seemed to be two Lovelace families...)).

In the material copied to me by Paul, it mentioned that the name-change from "Bristol" to "Maldern" had been made by a man named Bigelow. I therefore wrote to the ancestry group of that name to see if their records mentioned why this particular Bigelow might have chosen "Malden": I have received no reply but, should I do so, I will update this paper.

My hope is that our fellow heritage hounds in the Saugerties Historical Society, who already have done so much to help my research (and to whom copies of this paper go) will one day unearth the full truth and let me know!

## COOMBE



Place names with Anglo-Saxon/Old English origins are frequent in England, particularly in the south. As an example, I've examined the places listed in the index of the Surrey volume of Arthur Lee's King's England series and found that almost all of them have such an origin (ANNEX C).

But how does "Coombe" fit in? It occurs twice in the Surrey volume of the Domesday Book so we know it is of ancient origin. In each case it is spelled "CŪbe". Note the acute mark above the "u": in Anglo-Saxon such a mark denoted the pronunciation as "oo". It occurred to me that if we look at modern words with a "oo" in them we find many among them are of Anglo-Saxon origin. Here are "oo" words that came to mind: book, boom, boon, boost, boot, cook, cool, coop, coot, doom, door, drool, food, fool, foot, floor, good, goose, hood, hoof, hook, hoop, hoot, look, loom, loon, loop, loose, loot, moon, moor, moose, moot, nook, noon, noose, pool, poop, poor, rood, roof, rook, room, roost, root, soon, soot, took, tool, wood, wool, and womb. Only the last of these (*pacem* "comb", which is pronounced with an "oh" sound) has a "b" at its end. And the "oomb" sound is represented by "omb". Has something similar happened which has transformed "CŪbe" (which, as Anglo-Saxon has a phonetic pronunciation, would have been pronounced "Koob-uh") into the Coombe we know today?

But what of the name itself? "Coombe" frequently occurs in West Country place names but usually with only a single "o" eg Ilfracombe, Winchcombe, but rarely elsewhere: for example, my examination of the Arthur Mee volume found only two other occurrences in Surrey, each with the spelling "Combe" ie Farncombe, Hascombe.



Let's take a trip back in time. Some modern historians and archaeologists now argue that what we learned in school about hordes of Angles, Saxons, and Jutes sweeping all before them as they displaced the "Celts", driving them off the productive lowlands of most of England and into the wastes and mountains of Cumbria, Devon, Cornwall, and Cymru, is far too simplistic a picture. However, what is certain is that a cultural change took place and no more obviously than in the language spoken (ANNEX D).

But there is a curious anomaly. There is barely a trace in English of the "Celtic" language spoken by the pre-invasion inhabitants. That language was to be retained in use in northern England for a period, in the South West for much longer (from where, in the 5C, it travelled to Brittany and developed into Breton), and in Cymru where Cymraeg is spoken today. These languages form the Brythonic branch of Insular Celtic: Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic form the other, Goidelic, branch.

There are very few words that made their way into English and they are an assorted group. For example, if you wash your face with a *flannel*, go down for a breakfast of *pikelets* or *crumpets*, mow your *lawn*, then go shopping with your *basket*, you may be using such words but there is doubt even about these.

Some topological terms also fall into this category. There are five rivers named Avon in England. The Cymraeg for "river" is "afon" (pronounced "ahvon" as the letter "f" is sounded "v" (while the letter "ff" is sounded "f")). One can imagine an Anglo-Saxon pointing at a river and asking a local what's it called and getting the response "River, you stupid so-and-so". Other terms include Crag which might come from *Craig* with the same meaning, and, to our point, Coombe from *Cwm*. The word is perhaps best known to English readers from the lovely tune Cwm Rhondda, to which the hymn known in English as Bread of Heaven is sung. Cwm refers to a blind-headed valley or a glacier-formed, steep-sided hollow at the head of a stream: in geomorphology it takes the French term "cirque". Cwm is pronounced the same way as Coombe.

Case closed. Or is it? The "Oxford English Dictionary" postulates that both Coombe and Cwm could have a common source rather than the former deriving from the latter. The source may be "kumbos", an early Celtic word from which is derived "coumba/coumbo" found in many topographical names in the Western Alps eg Coumboscuro, Bellecombe, Coumbafréide, Combette, Coumbal dou Moulin etc. "Combe" also appears in major French dictionaries but the word is not in general modern use.

## CONCLUSION

I trust this journey around the world, into the depths of history, and through the tangled skeins of etymology in pursuit of answers to my initial question - What's in a name? - has proved entertaining and enlightening though not, alas, conclusive!

## **Afterword**

You will have noted my use of "Cymru" and "Cymraeg" in this paper: their meaning will have been obvious from the context but not so my reason for using them. It is this.

The Saxons had the unfortunate habit of calling other people and their lands with terms that meant "foreign" even when they invaded them. Thus we find, for example, Wallachia and Wales. The term "Welsh" is used by the Flemings to refer to their French fellow-countrymen: it is regarded by the latter as pejorative. In my own country, Cymru, hardly anyone is aware of this: that essentially when they are called, and refer to themselves as, "Welsh" it means "foreigner". So my preference is that I am a Cymro (comrade), my country is Cymru, and its language is Cymraeg. After Basque, it is the oldest currently spoken European language in recognisable form though, of course, most of the languages of Europe and elsewhere nearby all stem from Proto Indo-European. Sanskrit, the ancient language of far away India, is the oldest language yet in it we still find similarities with European languages eg "Fire" in Sanskrit is "Agni", in Latin it is "Ignis" (from where we get eg ignite): similarly "tooth/Danta/Dentis"; "Me/Ma/Me"; "Medium/Madhya/Medium"; "Father/Pithr/Pater" and there are many more.

To end on a lighter note, the Anglo-Saxon term is also found in "Walnut" ie "foreign nut".

## **ANNEX A**

It is without the scope of this paper to go into great detail about Fort Malden and its history but I will attempt a précis as it is interesting.

The fort was built overlooking the Detroit River which forms the Canadian border with the USA and as such at times played an important role in the relationship between those countries. Following Independence, an emboldened USA had designs on Canada, part of the British Empire, and so also perceived as a perpetual threat to the emerging country. Therefore the fort was built in 1795.

Some seventeen years later, the War of 1812 broke out between the UK and the USA. The War is little-known in this country but the USA remembers it, not least for the fact that British troops set fire to the White House: the scorch marks are still visible on the building today. The fort was not only a crucial defence for Canada but also a launchpad for the Siege of Detroit, a former British base ceded to the USA by the Jay Treaty of 1795, by a combined force of British troops and Native Americans. Amerherstburg changed hands as the war progressed and was under American occupation from 1813 until the War ended with the Treaty of Ghent in 1815.

The fort once more emerges in history during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837-8 when American sympathisers with the rebels posed a threat and there was a fear that the USA itself would invade. Post rebellion, there followed a period when the fort was manned by veterans before a change of use to an insane asylum in 1859. The asylum closed in 1870 and, largely

abandoned, the site was sold in 1875. Part of it became a lumber mill. In the 20C, after considerable public pressure, the site was taken into public ownership and is now a National Historic Site.

The area also figured prominently in the Underground Railroad, the system set up to ensure escaped slaves from the American South could find refuge in Canada. Getting to the Northern States was not enough as, while those States didn't have slavery, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 meant that slaves could be recaptured in them and those that had aided them, punished. About thirty slaves a day crossed to Canada at this site and by the start of the American Civil War, some 800 escaped slaves lived in the area, about 40% of the population. The location of the township of Malden, directly across the Detroit River, and at its narrowest point, from Detroit in the USA facilitated such journeys to freedom.

## **ANNEX B**

The siting of a settlement was down to a geological factor. The navigable channel of the Hudson Five, over fifty feet deep, sweeps past the shore of the Hudson River of what is now Malden-on-Hudson in a straight run known as the Malden-on-Hudson Reach. This meant ships could moor and embark there. The village was originally founded and named Bristol by Asa Bigelow, for our West Country city and the name is retained in Bristol Beach and Bristol Channel on the Hudson. When it was decided to establish a Post Office there, the site was renamed Malden by Bigelow: the reason it had to be renamed is that under the US system, each Post Office in a State has to have an unique name and there was already a Bristol in Ontario County, New York State. From Shirley's research in the US National Archives, she has narrowed down the date of the name-change to some time between 1824-1826. The final name-change was because of a similar placename elsewhere in the State that was easily confused with Malden so the name was extended to Malden-on-Hudson.

The Hudson River took seagoing vessels and Malden-on-Hudson was the chief of a number of landing stages in the area. Its importance came in part from a geological discovery. Blue stone was found in the mountains nearby and this was transported along the Malden Turnpike to Malden for shipment downriver to New York where it was used to build the pavements of that mighty city.

Learning this triggered a thought: New York was originally New Amsterdam, a Dutch settlement. The Hudson River Valley had also been settled by the Dutch as New Netherlands. In fact, Saugerties, the township in which Malden lies, means Little Sawyer in Dutch: a sawmill had once stood there. That, of course, triggered a further, obvious, thought...Malden in the Netherlands! Could that be the source? But why would Abe Bigelow select a Dutch name?

## ANNEX C

Usually the suffix of place-names indicates that the word denotes a widespread topological or communal feature whereas the first part often indicates ownership or otherwise qualifies the second part: sometimes the word stands alone. Such names are very common in England.

Here are such suffixes used in Surrey: I have included meanings and examples:

**Borough:** fortress/fortified town eg Wanborough

**Bury:** a fortified place eg Albury, Holmbury St Mary, Sunbury

**Don:** hill/pasture (usually for pigs) eg Chaldon, Coulsdon, East Clandon, Hambledon, West Clandon, Worplesdon

**Ey:** island/promontory/area of dry land surrounded by marsh eg Chertsey, East Molesey, Titsey, West Molesey

**Fleet:** creek/inlet eg Byfleet

**Fold:** staked-off pasture area eg Alfold, Chiddingfold, Dunsfold

**Ford:** shallow river crossing eg Guildford

**Gate:** this, exceptionally, is a Norse term for "street" eg Newdigate, Reigate

**Ham:** homestead/village eg Brockham Green, Caterham, Chelsham, Cobham, Effingham, Egham, Farnham, Fetcham, Frensham, Great Bookham, Ham, Hersham, Little Bookham, Merstham, Mickleham, Ockham, Puttenham, Warlingham, Wokingham, Windlesham, Woldingham

**Harow:** hedged enclosure/hay meadow/altar stone eg Peper Harow

**Hurst:** wooded hill eg Crowhurst, Ewhurst

**Ing:** place/small stream eg Dorking, Eashing, Godalming, Woking

**Leigh:** clearing in a wood or forest/meadow/field eg Cranleigh, Leigh

**Ley:** (variation on "Leigh") eg Bisley, Bletchingley, Bramley, Camberley, East Horsley, Frimley, Headley, Horley, Ockley, Ripley, Shamley Green, Thursley, Waverley, West Horsley, Whiteley Village, Wisley, Witley

**Mere:** lake eg Haslemere

**Shot:** projecting piece of land eg Bagshot

**Stead/Sted:** place eg Ashstead, Chipstead, Elstead, Oxted

**Stow:** meeting place eg Burstow

**Ton:** enclosed village/farmstead/manor eg Chessington, Compton, Gatton, Kingston upon Thames, Long Ditton, Thames Ditton, Walton on Thames, Walton on the Hill, Wotton

**Wick:** farm/enclosure/village eg Gatwick

**Worth:** fenced land/settlement enclosed by a wall or stakes eg Betchworth, Chilworth

In the north and in Scotland, many place names are of Scandinavian origin but follow a similar pattern. For example they might end in -dale (valley) or -thwaite (clearing).

## **ANNEX D**

The closest to English of the languages spoken in Europe today is the Frisian dialect of the Frisian Islands. The English language is at base an amalgam of Anglo-Saxon and Norman French. The expansion of the British Empire brought into the language a range of words from other tongues. For example, when we get into our pyjamas to go to sleep in our bungalow we have India to thank for the words or should we be lying in our hammock smoking tobacco while waiting for the barbeque to heat up, we can thank a Caribbean tribe (though in practice we can't as we Europeans wiped them out).