

DE
SCHAKEL

THE
LINK

A Journal for the twin towns MALDON and CUJK

Volume 1 Number 1 Summer 1972

A MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP
THE MAYOR OF MALDON

I welcome an opportunity to make a few remarks about your new publication. This quarterly journal, a written link between Maldon in England and Cuijk in Holland, will be a further means of strengthening the friendship between the two communities.

It is four years from the date of the "twinning" of Maldon and Cuijk, and the hand of friendship holds firm.

It was such a pleasure to entertain the then Burgomaster of Cuijk, c.a. Mr. van Zwieten on the 28th of May 1971, the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to this Borough. It was yet more pleasing to see the Burgomaster and his Lady presented to Her Majesty.

Congratulations should be extended to those here and in Cuijk for the thought and work they have put into making "De Schakel/The Link" so interesting and informative, and also to those who have made its publication possible by giving financial support. With the publication of this magazine I trust the people of Maldon and Cuijk may feel much closer and will learn a lot about the history of each others town and the events that take place there. I also hope there will be an exchange of personal letters and views.

I take the opportunity to wish Good Luck and God Speed to "De Schakel/The Link", and every success for a long and interesting future.

W. Hutchinson
Mayor.



To the Editor of "The Link"

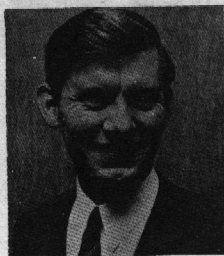
House of Commons
London, S.W.1

International understanding must be based on personal relationships not just international treaties. For that reason I have always welcomed the twinning of English towns with their European counterparts, and the establishment of the "Link" will certainly help to bring the two communities closer together.

Having seen the representatives of Cuijk, and especially their band, at the Maldon Carnival, I am sure we who are associated with Maldon are very lucky in our partner, and I hope that they will feel the same.

I wish the "Link" continuing success.

Brian Harrison
Member of Parliament for Maldon.



CUIJK AND MALDON - THREE STAGES IN A DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIP

by Mr H.Ph.J.A.M. Hennekens
(Burgemeester of Cuijk)

In the beginning of 1969 the first contacts were made between the Mayors of the Municipalities of Maldon and Cuijk. The Municipality of Maldon had expressed a wish to get into contact with a Dutch Municipality and town of about the same size. The first introductions didn't take a long time: on 8th May 1969

Burgemeester van Zuieten visited Mayor Daws; on the 24th July of that same year the Mayor of Maldon, Mrs Daws and their two children were the guests of the Burgemeester of Cuijk.

After the Town Councils of both towns had decided towards the end of 1969 to establish mutual contacts, visits were paid to each other during the year 1970.

In the course of the visit of the municipality corporation and a deputation from the Town Hall staff of Cuijk to Maldon from 16th to 18th of May that year the Twinning-Link was officially confirmed by the signing of the Charter and the presentation of the municipal flag of Cuijk.

On Monday, 29th June 1970, a party of about 70 pupils and 8 teachers from the MAVO-school Cuijk were the guests of the County Secondary School Maldon. They still remember the great hospitality with which they were received there.

At the end of September a deputation from Maldon, among whom were the municipal corporation, stayed in Cuijk. They acted in accordance with the aims laid down in the Charter: promoting friendship and unity among the peoples of Europe by establishing friendly relations between Maldon and Cuijk.

In 1971 what may be called the second phase was continued. After the prelude in which contacts were made under the supervision of the Municipalities, parties from among the citizens took over the initiative to meet one another. "Harmonie Gaudete in Domino" (our fine brass band) was present at the celebrations for the 800th anniversary of Maldon and, as already mentioned, pupils and teachers visited a Maldon school and also the Moot Hall where they were received by the Mayor and a friendly lady representing the Town Council.

The development has continued; the third phase sets in. We say "Alle goede dingen in drieën" - You say, I think, "Third time does the trick." Youth, in the person of William Kemp, takes a new initiative. A medium for mutual information is created. Maldon will be informed about Cuijk as it lives and works, and the citizens of Cuijk will receive information about their twin town and their friends in Maldon.

The initiative of William Kemp deserves praise and co-operation. If Cuijk and Maldon want to go on being a haven that furthers friendship and unity among the peoples of Europe then it will be necessary to know each other in our ways of life and in our ways of thinking about life, for "onbekend maakt onbemind" - unknown, unloved, as the saying is.

I hope that this journal will grow as a medium that will make us known to each other, in such a way that it will make the reverse of the saying come true.



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EDITORIAL COMMENT

A NEW SPIRIT IN MALDON?

In gathering together the features and advertising matter for this and the first Dutch edition of DE SCHAKEL/THE LINK I have been greatly impressed by the very large measure of interest and goodwill shown by the people of Maldon for a project that will bring them into closer communion with their twin town of Cuijk. This was equalled only by the enthusiasm and co-operation I found when I visited Cuijk a few months ago and discussed the whole idea of a journal for the twin towns with Mr Hennekens, the Burgomaster and Mr Baltussen, a local schoolmaster.

Maldon has perhaps not always seemed over-anxious to open its heart to strangers (though the days of Bensusan's tart old characters are long since gone!), but our twinning with Cuijk has certainly brought about a completely new era in our relationship with the outside world.

Let us not allow this bright new association to be limited to occasional exchange visits on great occasions, but instead encourage as many private and sponsored visits between the two towns as possible. I think that neither we Maldoners nor the good folk of Cuijk will be disappointed in what they find in eachother's towns.

*

The generosity of the town's tradespeople and businessmen has been overwhelming, and has made possible a rather more ambitious format than was at first envisaged. To them, and to those who gave valuable time to provide me with the material for both editions, my heartfelt thanks.

William Kemp
Editor.

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Now the way is clear for you; O warriors,
Hasten to the battle; God alone knows
How things will turn out.

(from The Battle of Maldon)

HOLLAND AND ESSEX - A VERY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

by HERVEY BENHAM (Author of "Two Cheers for the Town Hall")

If you visit Colchester you will find some picturesque streets of old houses in the centre of the town, known as the Dutch quarter.

This recalls that the prosperity of the town was for over one hundred years largely based on the industry of refugees from the Netherlands, who came to England for the sake of their religion and seem to have been particularly attracted to the Eastern counties, which must have reminded them of their native land.

There were sixteen Dutchmen in Colchester in 1551, a number which had increased to 175 twenty years later. By 1615 the population was over 1200, mostly descendants born in England.

John Migrode, a Canon of Veere, founded a Dutch church in Colchester and the community lasted until 1728, when after a decline it was finally dissolved.

The trade chiefly followed was weaving, and on the whole the Dutch settlers were made welcome, though at the nearby town of Halstead animosity caused twenty families to move into Colchester. But this so impoverished Halstead that in 1580 the town petitioned for them to be sent back.

After the end of the Dutch community the links were chiefly maintained by the continual sea trade. Little ships of all sorts were sailing back and forth between Maldon and Zeeland, and the Post Office packet service between Harwich and Brielle was one of the main links between England and Europe.

To-day the modern passenger ships ply between Harwich and the Hook of Holland, but many East Coast yachts from the Maldon area make holiday cruises to Zeeland, and one of the great events of the year, in which English and Dutch yachts compete in about equal numbers, is the annual race from Harwich or Burnham to the Hook.

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IN AN AGE OF RAPID SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE, the people of Maldon are increasingly conscious of the antiquity of their town's heritage and traditions. In associating themselves with CUIJK they have found a worthy companion. In this, the first of a series of articles from a correspondent in Cuijk, we hear something of the early historical background of that town. In a reciprocal article Jane Benham has told the people of Cuijk a little of our Maldon Story. This was published in our Dutch Summer Number.

IN THE BEGINNING....

The history of Cuijk goes far back in time. The sources of the earliest times are, however, very scarce. Not until about the year 1200 a.d. do we find ourselves, historically speaking, on safer ground. That is not to say that the time before this is a closed book to us.

From the period before the 13th century some very summary sources are available - however unreliable they may be - and for the earliest times we have to resort to the spade of the archaeologist. Formerly the general idea was that before the arrival of the Romans our country was one big wilderness, where not the slightest beginning of any civilization was to be found. Only when the Batavians had come down the Rhine in their hollow tree-stems and had settled in Betuwe (between Rhine and Maas) was it possible to speak of some slight Germanic civilization. This people would be supposed to have lived not far from Cuijk. They were closely related to the "Chatten", and these in turn, then, would have given the little village of Katwijk its name, just to the north of Cuijk.

This romantic sort of historiography may sound all very well; but as an etymology for the name of Katwijk it is without any foundation. Nothing is more difficult than tracing the history and explaining the meaning of names of very old places, and one shouldn't jump to conclusions which lack any kind of authority. By the way, it is interesting to note that in this part of Holland there are many monosyllabic place names such as Cuijk, Haps, Beers, Mook, Mill, Velp, Keent, Oss, Heesch, Lith, Tiel, Deest, Leur, Clst, Lent, Doy, Leuth—and in neighbouring Germany: Kleef, Goch, Niel, Mehr and Moers. To me they all have a very old ring about them!

Since in the field of names much must be guesswork, it seems more sensible to pay closer attention to what the men with the spades find in the ground. For Cuijk (and numerous other places in the Netherlands) this work is done by members of the Rijks Oudheidskundig Bodemonderzoek (National Archaeological Research) at Amersfoort.

Some hundreds of years before the beginning of the Christian era in this region, there was already a relatively dense population, and at various places in the land of Brabant there lived at that time people who had a certain culture. They kept cattle, cultivated their fields as best they could, and lived in primitive wooden huts. They took special care of their dead. Recent excavations at Haps (a village south of Cuijk) show that there were such settlements here as long ago as 700 BC, and numerous burial mounds have been excavated, all with their openings to the east, indicating perhaps their worship of the rising sun.

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This orientation to the east is generally found in Christianity up to this day; mostly our churches have their sanctuary to the east.

The findings at Haps do not stand alone. Similar discoveries have been made at Cuijk in the 19th century, and it is a pity that at the time registration of what was found was not always given enough care, for the scientific apparatus for this had not then been set up. A report in the archives of Cuijk tells us that in 1844 many round burial-mounds were found in a field belonging to the "Haanhof" situated on the road to Haps. In these mounds urns with the remains of human bones had been disinterred.

Mostly these remains had almost quite perished, as they were all that was left after cremation. The finds in these graves were not really spectacular, as the people of these settlements lived in the bronze age and their way of life must have been simple. Finds of the same sort had already been made as early as 1825 on the "Kalkhof". There are other places where similar finds have come to light. Sometimes iron objects were found, dating from a period following after the bronze age. In the iron age civilization had moved on one more step.

And so habitation of the land of Cuijk goes back to long before our era and the peoples of those times will have been Celts. Next time something will be said about Cuijk in Roman times.

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....AND THE PRESENT-DAY CUIJK

In this first news bulletin you can read about the history of Cuijk, but it may be even more interesting to know what Cuijk looks like at this present stage of its development. So let's make a tour of the town at this very moment, in the middle of July 1972 and show you all the sights and tell you what is going on in this MODERN little town on the River Maas.

(From Our Correspondent)

To begin with, some basic information about Cuijk will be useful. The full name of the Municipality is "Gemeente Cuijk en Sint Agatha" usually shortened to "Gemeente Cuijk c.a." - c.a. for cum annexis (with belongings).

The Municipality covers an area of just over 8 square miles, and it is situated along the west bank of the River Maas, at the point where the river turns west, in the Province of Noord-Brabant. The territory is divided as follows:-

1. Cuijk as the main centre, with 11,000 inhabitants
2. The village of Vianen, with 1400 inhabitants
3. The village of Katwijk, with 600 inhabitants
4. The village of Sint Agatha, with 700 inhabitants.

So, altogether, Cuijk has at the moment about 13,700 inhabitants.

Cuijk, the main centre, again can be divided into three parts:

The centre itself, which is more or less the old village, then Cuijk-Noord - a newly-built separate part of the town, nearly all completed now, where nearly 5000 people have their homes; and thirdly Cuijk-Zuid, where two big projects are under way to provide for future growth. The plans for Cuijk-Zuid from now to 1980 allow for the building of about 1600 houses with schools and other facilities for a population of about 6000 people.

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After the second world war Cuijk saw a tremendous industrial development and at the present time, mid-1972, there are about 4000 people employed in local industry. They work in various branches, by far the most (1200 of them) in factories for meat production and tinning (one of these being the Homburg Company, which has recently been merged with the British firm of J. Lyons). Seven hundred more work in the metallurgical and engineering industry, and a further 500 are in textiles. The papermill gives work to 400 people, and another 400 are employed in wood-working and cabinet-making factories. Then there is Chicopee, a factory for non-wovens (synthetic textiles) in the Johnson & Johnson group. They have a sister factory at Pontllanfraith in Wales; here in Cuijk they employ 360 people. In addition to this, many work in the food and dairy industry; and there is also a diamond works.

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DE SCHAKEL—THE LINK

At the moment Cuijk has a great number of "guest workers" from other countries including Spain, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Morocco.

Besides several primary schools, Cuijk has a secondary modern school (MAVO-school), a technical school, a school for further education for girls, and a school for further education for young working people. There is also an arts and music school for children and teenagers (and even some grown-ups) who want to practice arts or music in their spare time.

For secondary education, preparatory to university,

pupils from Cuijk can go to Boxmeer (13km south of Cuijk) or to Nijmegen (13km north of Cuijk). After that they can continue their studies at the Catholic University at Nijmegen.

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And now for our sightseeing tour. A good place to start is the Town Hall. This is a fine modern building, opened in 1957, and it has a fine carrillon installed in its tower, consisting of 25 bells connected to an electric console, which automatically plays a certain tune every hour. It can also be played by hand and has a two-octave keyboard. The carillon was presented to the people of Cuijk by some of the town's businessmen. From the steps of the Town Hall we have a wide view of the recently completed "Louis Jansenplein" - a square named after a former successful Mayor of Cuijk.

In the square fun-fairs, markets and concerts are held, and it also serves as a car park for visitors to the new shopping centre "De Zwaan" (The Swan) which is situated opposite the Town Hall.

In this very modern centre (to which another part is later to be added) it is a pleasure to go shopping in the big department stores, the specialized shops and the little so-called "day-shops" before we continue our walk in an easterly direction. Round the corner we see Sint Martinuskerk, our beautiful neo-Gothic church, which was designed by Franssen from Roermond sixty years ago when it was decided that the old 16th century church no longer met the town's requirements. Our church has a very valuable organ which was made in about 1700 either in France or Belgium. It is in baroque style, and was bought in the City of Liege by a deputation from Cuijk in the year 1803. Behind the 32 pipes that are visible another 1000 pipes are hidden with lengths varying from 1cm to 2.40m. The organ was restored in 1955, and because of its rare qualities it was listed by the Government Institution which is responsible for monuments.

Leaving the church, we pass underneath the wide "Maasboulevard", which is a motorway on top of the Maas-dike, and walk along the riverside, with a beautiful view of the hills and woods beyond, stretching right away to the German Reichswald. This is my favourite walk (or rather, bicycle ride) after Sunday mass. The river and the landscape through which it flows are constantly changing, and always fascinating.

We head north now along the bank of the river and over the top of the dike, and Cuijk-Noord and the Municipal sports-ground lie on our left and right respectively. The fast growth of Cuijk, which was promoted to so great an extent by a successful industrial policy, involved a number of expensive new provisions, among them the sports-ground. It consists of four football fields, a building with rooms for instruction, a spacious parking area and a training ground called "Arodefield". The sports-ground was taken into service in August 1965, and in September 1970 it was enlarged with another two football fields and two hockey fields with changing rooms. At the present time complete accommodation for athletics are being laid out.

In April 1967, after after 10 years of preparatory activities, the open-air swimming bath - "De Groenendijkse Kampen" - was opened to the public. The cost of this project, including the land, was f.862,000, towards which the public contributed f.100,000 (which had been collected in just 24 hours to celebrate the birth of the 10,000th citizen of Cuijk in 1966). A subsidy of f.125,000 was received from the Department of Social Work to help meet the cost of the bath. There are three pools: the infants' pool (11x11m), the instruction pool (17.50x40m) and a deep pool (10.50x25m) where tracks can be marked out for swimming-matches. In summer the bath is open 12 hours a day from May to October; and central heating ensures swimmers of a pleasant temperature.

In addition to the open-air pools we have an indoor swimming bath at our disposal in the centre of Cuijk. This 25-metre bath is mainly used for swimming instruction during the winter months. Cuijk also has a tennis-ground with 6 gravel courts.

(Editors note: in 1967 there were approximately 10 f. to the f.)

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And now we had better take to our bicycles or a motor car! Our next visit is to the village of Katwijk, 2km to the north. Here there is a large modern industrial site on the banks of the Maas with its harbour and lock. Several new industries have been set up here, including Chicopee, and there is still a large area available for further development. The total cost of the project has been in the region of f.17,000,000, which includes the purchase of the land, public illumination, roads and sewers, water and electricity supplies, and the construction of the harbour, lock, and railway junction. Towards this the town received a subsidy of f.2,000,000. Construction was commenced in 1964. In just a year it had started to earn. Because of the constantly changing level of the River Maas it was necessary to build the lock before the harbour could be put into use. This part of the operation was completed in 1967.

From Katwijk we shall continue our little trip in the direction of Vianen, a quiet rural village south-west of Cuijk. Then on our return journey we come to another major industrial development, and it is here that one of the town's biggest industries is found: the Homburg Meat Products. Here also there is still room for further expansion and new industry.

And now to Sint Agatha - the nicest, quietest little village you can imagine. It has a very famous old abbey, which reminds me of Maldon's Beleigh Abbey; and both have their famous collections of valuable old manuscripts and books. We must tell you the history of our abbey at Sint Agatha another time. In this village all is peace and quiet, and the only noise of modern traffic that is heard here is the occasional hooting of a passing ship on the river. And for anglers, this is one place in a thousand to practice their sport without disturbance.

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Returning from Sint Agatha to the Town Hall, we shall pass the Theatre - the cultural centre of Cuijk. This building has an auditorium with 550 seats. Concerts, plays, operas, operettas and cabaret take place here, as well as film performances. Here, too, is the "Schouwkafee" for dancing, small meetings, and lectures; and the carnival also has its headquarters here. In the same building is the public library and the arts and music school. In short, all things cultural in Cuijk centre round the "Schouwborg".

And now, back at the Town Hall, our little tour comes to an end. You have seen Cuijk as it is to-day, and I hope you will feel you know us better now. Of course, we couldn't do more than give you a general idea of what our town is like, and there is much more to be told. We shall continue to inform you about things over here - not just to keep in touch, but to get to know each other better. So, may we say "See you next time?"

17th-21st International Four-day Marches

Every year more than 10,000 people from all over the world go to Nijmegen to take part in this event. The idea is not to win, but to stick it out till the end of the 4th day. The marchers take four different routes, each day leaving from and returning to Nijmegen. They include civilians and soldiers from many countries, including detachments from the British Army; and one of their marches takes them through Cuijk, where they are always welcomed with the merry music of the brass band. Specially, and on this occasion only, soldiers of the Dutch Army build a pontoon bridge across the River Maas so that the walkers may cross on their fourth and final return march to Nijmegen. When the weather is fine, this day is always a happy and gay occasion, and people from far and near come to watch and cheer the marchers.

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HOLIDAYTIME IN THE NETHERLANDS

From July 1 until August 15 all the schools in the Netherlands were closed for the Summer Holidays. Up to the middle of July the holiday was marred by almost continuous rain, and the sun was hardly ever seen. After that the weather began to improve, and it began to feel much more like summer. In the first half of July all workmen employed in the building trade take their holidays and house-building and other constructional work comes to a standstill for 14 days. After this the building work (with which Cuijk is always bustling) got started again with renewed energy.

Best Wishes to "THE LINK" from

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At the beginning of September it's Fun Fair Time in Cuijk. The roundabout the stalls, the booths, and all the other things I can't find English words for, are back again. It is an event that, of course, is especially exciting for the children. The fair lasts for 4 days - from Saturday to Tuesday. In the afternoon parents come with their children; in the evenings it's more teenagers and older people. The music is deafening and everyone is happy. In the evening when the lights are on it's like a scene from a fairy-tale, dance bands are playing in the dance halls and we all have a good time.

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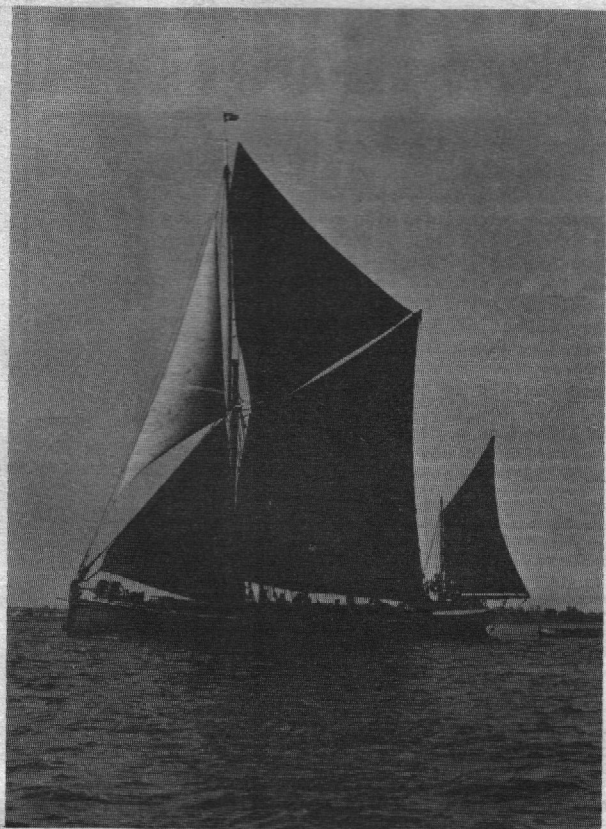
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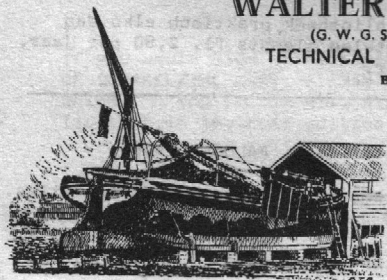
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Our Dutch friends are as anxious to hear about Maldon and its people as we are to learn all about them. We want this magazine to expand and increase its contents in such a way as to give each community a really intimate knowledge of the other. If there is something you would especially like to know about life in Cuijk, get in touch with the Editor and he will try to arrange for an article on that subject to appear in the Maldon Edition. Likewise, if you can think of a good idea for illustrating any particular aspect of Maldon life write it down and let us have it, and we will try to use it in the Dutch Edition.

The "Letters to the Editor" feature in any publication is always studied with lively interest by most of the readers. We should like to get a feature of this kind established as a regular part of DE SCHAKEL/THE LINK. If you have something interesting to say, we shall be pleased to hear from you, but please keep letters to a reasonable length, as space will be limited.

YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS HELP TO PAY THE EXPENSES OF PRODUCING THIS JOURNAL.
OUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL GLADLY CALL ON YOU TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

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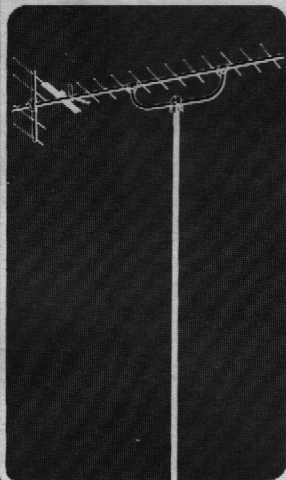
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MANTSBRITE AERIALS congratulate "De Schakel/The Link" on their first publication, and wish them every success with this venture.

BRIAN ASH
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Articles for the Dutch edition of "De Schakel/The Link" were provided by

Hervey Benham, Esq.
Miss Jane Benham
D.T.K. Tonkin, Esq., J.P.

Mr Peter Laurie, Editor of the "Maldon & Burnham Standard" provided a digest of Maldon news covering the previous three months.

Note on pronunciation: The name CUIJK (which is also spelled CUYK, CUYCK, CUIK and CIJK) is usually pronounced "KIRRK" by the people of that town. W.K.

If you would like to help with the production and distribution of DE SCHAKEL/THE LINK, please write to the Editor at the address given below. The Editor will also be pleased to receive letters for publication in the next edition of this journal.

Published by William Kemp at The Wave House, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex

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