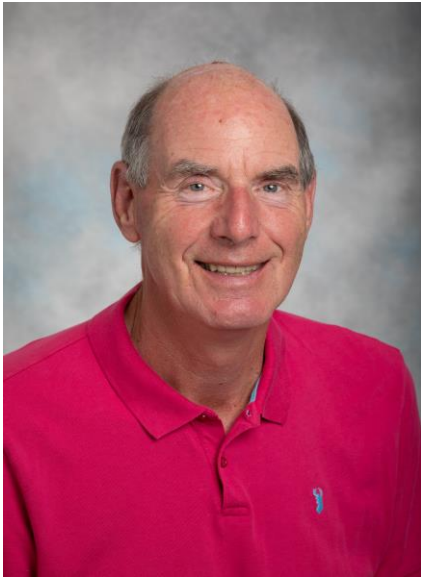


Dunmow Flitch Trials



Saturday 13th July 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Flitch Trials



The Dunmow Flitch Trials™ are our wonderful and ancient custom, held in Dunmow for over 900 years and we are very proud to keep this alive.

Usually held every four years in a leap year, this year's Trials are being held only two years after the previous Trials which had been postponed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, the organising committee have been working at full steam in order to get the schedule back on track, and we hope that this year's Trials will be

as stimulating and fascinating as ever. We have a few exciting twists & turns planned to ensure that the tradition keeps evolving.

The Flitch Trials are about Marriage. Hopefully, happy marriages which as many people know involves endless hard work, compromises, forgiveness and love.

Today we are set to enjoy the Trials and tribulations of five more couples who try to convince the Jury that they have 'Never Whisht themselves unwed'

Alongside the Trials, we have the Flitch Fayre with its Pony rides, Beer tent, ice creams, dog show and it includes a visit from Elsa & Batman in the arena!

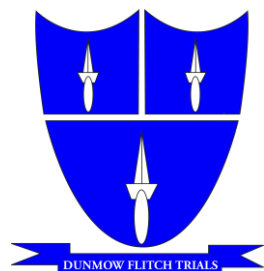
We have a mix of old and new in the courtroom personnel as we welcome comedienne Vikki Stone as our new Counsel and Al Cooper-Nine as our Clerk of the Court and we are delighted to once again have The Right Reverend Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester, join us as a special guest for the evening Trials.

We invite you to buy a glass of Pimm's, sit back and enjoy a wonderful day like no other!

Mark Jones

Chairman of the Dunmow Flitch Trials

Organising Committee 2024





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History of the Dunmow Flich Trials

A common claim of the origin of the Dunmow Flich dates back to 1104 and the Augustinian Priory of Little Dunmow, founded by Lady Juga Baynard. Lord of the Manor, Reginald Fitzwalter and his wife dressed themselves as humble folk and begged blessing of the Prior a year and a day after marriage. The Prior, impressed by their devotion bestowed upon them a Flich of Bacon. Upon revealing his true identity, Fitzwalter gave his land to the Priory on the condition a Flich should be awarded to any couple who could claim they were similarly devoted.

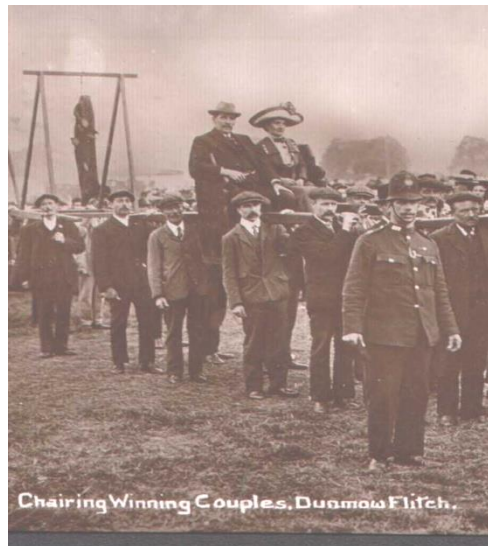
By the 14th century the Dunmow Flich had achieved far-reaching notoriety. The author William Langland who lived on the Welsh borders, mentions it in his 1362 book 'The Vision of Piers Plowman' in a manner that implies general knowledge of the custom among his readers.

Chaucer writing less than half a century later alludes to the Dunmow Flich Trials in 'The Wife of Bath's Tale' and again does not see the need to explain them to his readers.

However, is it not until 1445 that the winners of the Flich were officially recorded. The earliest record we have of a successful claimant of the Dunmow Flich is Richard Wright who travelled from Norwich to try his marital harmony and take home the bacon. The win is recorded in documents from the Priory of Little Dunmow still held by the British Museum.

After the monasteries were swept aside by Henry VIII, the awarding of the Flich was taken over by the Lord of the Manor. In 1701 the local paper records our Judge's professional predecessor Thomas Bridge and others taking part in the Trials spent the evening dancing and playing cards in the Saracens Head. In 1751, the Shakeshafts of Weathersfield were successful in claiming the Flich recorded in the well-known print by William Osborne.

It was in 1832 that Josiah Vine and his wife, a retired cheese monger from Reading, tried to claim the Flich. The Steward of Little Dunmow, George Wade, another professional predecessor of our Judge, refused their request to hold a trial and is reported as saying that he regarded the trials as being "an idle custom bringing people of indifferent character into the neighbourhood". The trials were then transferred from Little Dunmow to Great Dunmow but over the following years the custom lapsed. becoming an



Victorian novelist Harrison Ainsworth is credited with reviving the Trials as an entirely civic event, separate from Church and Lords of the Manor. In 1855, following the publication of his popular novel 'The Custom of Dunmow' in which Ainsworth recounts the attempts by Little Dunmow's Flitch of Bacon publican to win the Flitch by marrying a succession of wives in an attempt to find the perfect one, the Trials were once again staged in Great Dunmow.

Since then, the Trials have been held regularly, and since the end of WWII, every four years in a leap year. Not because of historic precedent but because such intervals suits the situation nicely and gives the organizers time to recover and build up strength to organize the next event.

The modern Trial takes the form of a court presided over by a Judge, with counsel representing the claimants, and opposing counsel representing the Flitch of Bacon, a jury of six maidens and six bachelors, a Clerk of the court to record the proceedings and Usher to maintain order.



The court is held in a marquee erected on Talberds Ley especially for the occasion and couples (claimants) married for at least a year and a day come from far and wide to try and claim the Flitch. It is not a competition between the couples. All couples could be successful in their claim, which is vigorously defended by Counsel employed on behalf of the donors of the bacon whose job it is to test their evidence and to try and persuade the Jury not to grant them the Flitch.

Successful couples are then carried shoulder high by bearers (humble folk) in the ancient Flitch Chair to the Market Place where they take the oath kneeling on pointed stones. Unsuccessful couples have to walk behind the empty chair to the Market Place, consoled with a prize of a gammon.

The original custom of awarding a Flitch to those who can prove marital harmony is not unique to Dunmow. There are references from across Europe of similar customs now long abandoned. However, the town is unique in continuing to reward marital harmony with a Flitch of Bacon well into the 21st century.

With each Trial comes amusement, entertainment, renewed community spirit and another piece of history to a beautiful and prosperous town. Long may it continue!



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The Flichth Oath

You doe swear by custom of confession,
That you ne'er made nuptiall transgression,
Nor since you were married man and wife,
By household brawls or contentious strife,
Or otherwise in bed or at boarde,
Offended each other in deed or in word,
Or in a twelve moneths time and a day,
Repented not in thought in any way,
Or since the Church Clerk said Amen,
Wish't yourselves unmarried agen,
But continue true and in desire,
As when you joyn'd hands in Holy Quire.



The Sentence

Since to these conditions without any fear,
Of your own accords you doe freely swear,
A whole flitche of bacon you doe receive,
And beare it away with love and good leave,
For this is the custome of Dunmow well known,
Tho' the pleasure be ours, the bacon's your own.

A Word from the Judge



I am as surprised as you are to have been invited back to be your Judge for the Great Dunmow Flitch Trials 2024. But thank you. Last time was my first experience as a judge. You may remember it was a sweltering day. I had to wear full robes and the long judge's wig. It was not the most comfortable experience.

I am not a judge in real life but my day job as a family law barrister means I see all types of judges. We sometimes describe a newly-appointed judge as suffering from "judgitis".

You won't find this term in the medical dictionaries but it means judges who rather throw their weight about because they are now very important (fortunately it is normally a short term affliction). I am definitely planning on having a bit of judgitis in July and, if anyone's phone goes off, it is likely to be confiscated and go straight into Doctor's Pond pursuant to my powers under the Dunmow Flitch Trials Regulations 2024.

What makes a good judge? Well, Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury described the basic qualities needed for a judge when running a trial as 'grip, authority, politeness, fairness, an ability to simplify and an ability to express yourself.' Apart from the politeness and fairness thing I am happy to go along with that.

I have been lucky enough to be counsel in the trials in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 when Michael Chapman was my judge, and also 2016 when Dave Monk from BBC Radio Essex was my judge. Different styles but both masterful.

As a nation we are not always the most demonstrative with our emotions and an event such as the Flitch Trials allows us all to celebrate the love and commitment in our relationships.



Daniel, with his children in 2022

There are no Flicht Trials without the married couples being brave enough to put themselves forward and accept the verdict of the unmarried jury of the 6 men and 6 women under the age of 25 who have given up their day. The trials are not rehearsed (you will soon pick that up!) and neither is the verdict. I salute the couples and the members of the jury and of course the unsung work of the Organising Committee and accept the verdict.



***Daniel, with his father & son
in 2022***

My father Peter was the one who first encouraged me to put myself forward

when I was only a pupil barrister back in 1996. We were living in Margaret Roding so that is where the Dunmow connection originally comes. Claire Rayner was the star turn as counsel back in those days.

My Dad has been to every Trials I have been in. Last time at the age of 88 he was brought by his carer. He's now 90 and in a nursing home in Suffolk and I am not sure whether he will make it this time. My mum Anna died in 2019 after 54 years of marriage.

We have been in Ilkley, West Yorkshire since 2016. Our children Theo (15), Molly (13), Jemima (11) and Phoebe (9) will hopefully make it to the Trials along with our cocker spaniel Toffee (4). Toffee has had his own recent experience of being judged when he failed to get so much as a rosette at our local dog show at the Ilkley Carnival.

A lesson in ruff justice.

Enjoy the Trials.

Toffee at Ilkley Carnival

Daniel Pitt

Judge

Great Dunmow Flicht Trials 2024



Members of the Court

Tim Clark KC



Tim Clark KC will be appearing in his second Flich Trials, he hopes to improve on his performance on last time when he started by misidentifying the Bishop. His various double and single entendres about Roger the Bishop probably didn't help matters thereafter. Tim remains married with two children and an enormous fan of bacon. After 30 years of prosecuting the innocent and defending the guilty, he looks forward once again to showing off whilst dressed up in funny clothes - just this time at the weekend.

Iain Daniels



Iain is a barrister of considerable experience and, that being the case, you may be surprised that he has not got better at it over time. He practices in an area of law which primarily revolves around accidents and misadventure in chaotic situations, and he has developed a style of advocacy which matches this. Notwithstanding, and to the considerable embarrassment of his children, he is very pleased to have been asked to return for a second set of Flich Trials this year.

If his experience in the last set of trials has taught him anything then it is that nothing goes down better with the Dunmow crowd than a pork related innuendo and as a result, he has spent the last two years hunting the darkest corners of the internet for such. Only a practiced use of private browsing has thus far saved his blushes.

Being both married and a bacon lover Iain has considered entering along with his wife as one of the contesting couples. She has however indicated that the relevant timeframe for not wishing herself unwed would need to be dramatically shortened for there to be any chance of success before a jury. He therefore wishes the brave couples who have been selected the very best of luck and his apologies in advance.

Members of the Court

Vikki Stone



Vikki is attending her first Flitch Trials and is a multi award-winning writer, composer, comedian and musician.

She refers to herself as a “lapsed” comedian these days, as most of her time is spent writing. Amongst other things, she wrote the Olivier Award winning Hey Duggee Live, and is very popular amongst the owners of toddlers.

Those without toddlers will have absolutely no idea what that is.

You might have seen or heard her on: Richard Osman’s House of Games (as a proud winner of two toolboxes), Celebrity Pointless (there’s a Pointless trophy on the mantelpiece), BBC Radio 4’s The Now Show (RIP), various BBC Proms telly & radio stuff, and loads more.

Vikki is a vegetarian, and has not eaten bacon in over a decade, but does not judge others. What they wish to do with pork products at the weekend is their business.

Sadie Nine



Sadie presents her radio show on BBC Essex, Saturday and Sundays and her infectious laugh and personality have won her a Gold ‘Gillard’, an ‘RTS’ TV award, and a Sony nomination. But the joy she felt receiving those shrank into oblivion when she was asked to be Counsel AGAIN at this year’s FLITCH TRIALS!!

Sadie always brings a great deal of good counsel to the Trials as she has a large family of her own; Husband Al

and their ‘girls’- Chihuahuas Tiger-Lily and Janice and Buster the cat! Her and Al’s altercations are quite famous on-air on BBC Essex every Sunday!

Sadie loves radio but she didn’t begin her career on the airwaves. She was a singer, and became a ‘popstar’ in the then USSR, appearing in Kyiv. Her album – ‘Nine By Nine’ - still available on Ebay - went to Number One in the charts and she appeared live to audiences of 10,000s and TV audiences of 100 MILLION!

But that’s nothing to the crowds of Great Dunmow! As a singer she’s worked with multi award winning Hannah Waddingham, Shane Richie, Billy Connolly, Tommy Cooper and Norman Wisdom so she can handle a character or two – and her live show ‘Sadie’s Nine Lives’ has been booked for a Christmas Special at the Palace Theatre, Southend on Friday December 20th

She will scREAM and scREAM for justice – and may even stamp her little....mmm... feet to get her way and uphold the interests of the pig! Sadie will listen intently and give her counselin between copious sips of bubbly. Good luck everyone!



Members of the Court

Clerk of the Court

Al Cooper-Nine, will administer the Court proceedings.

Court Chaplains

Rev. Elsie Bouffler of St Mary's Church Dunmow, will stand in for Rev. Tom Warmington and will be joined by the Rt. Reverend Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester for the evening Trials.

Court Usher

Former Dunmow Police Inspector Martin Reed returns to the role of Court Usher.

Court Bailiffs

Philip Milne will lead the Court Bailiffs drawn from the ranks of the Dunmow Rotary Club.

Court Policeman

Brian Foster will reprise his role of Court Policeman.

The Flich Minstrels

The Flich Fanfare was composed by Eric Stapleton, Arr. Tamzin Haines. The fanfare is directed by Tamzin Evans and performed by Carwyn Evans, Fran Farrall, Seb Farrall and Eli Haines during the afternoon.

The Claimants

There will be five Claimants for the bacon. All will remain anonymous until their court appearance.

The Jurors

The Jury comprises six Maidens and six Bachelors aged between 18 and 25 years and from the ancient ecclesiastical Parish of Dunmow.

Jury Keepers

Tony Puddick and Adam Easy, retired Metropolitan Police Officers, will take the role of Jury Keepers.

Maidens

Emily Lewis Gibbons
Becki Watts
Gabi Salmon
Lucy Keys
Laura Romain
Rebecca Romain

Bachelors

Louis Jenkins
Zach Shuttlewood
Henry Davis
Will Hale
Charlie Smith
Fred Thurley



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Wishing this year's Fitch Trials
every success





Programme of Proceedings

Morning

- 10:00 Procession departs from Saracen's Head
(along Stortford Road to Talberds Ley and Trials marquee)
- 10:15 Procession arrives at the Trials marquee (Talberds Ley)
- 10:30 Trial one starts
- 11:15 Jury retire – interval (15 minutes)
- 11:45 Trial ends, procession leaves Trials marquee for Oath taking
(along Stortford Road to Market Place)
- 12.00 Oath taking ceremony commences (Market Place)
- 12.00 Field Events open

Afternoon

- 13:30 *Procession departs from Saracen's Head
(along Stortford Road to Talberds Ley and Trials marquee)*
- 13:45 Procession arrives at the Trials marquee (Talberds Ley)
- 14:00 Trial two starts
- 14:45 Jury retire – interval (15 minutes)
- 15:15 Trial three starts
- 16:00 Jury retire – interval (15 minutes)
- 16:30 Trial ends, procession leaves Trials marquee for Oath taking
(along Stortford Road to Market Place)
- 16:45 Oath taking ceremony commences (Market Place)

Evening

- 18:30 Procession departs from Saracen's Head
(along Stortford Road to Trials marquee)
- 18:45 Procession arrives at the Trials marquee (Talberds Ley)
- 19:00 Trial four starts
- 19:45 Jury retire – interval (15 minutes)
- 20:15 Trial five starts
- 21:00 Jury retire – interval (15 minutes)
- 21:30 Trial ends, procession leaves Trials marquee for Oath taking
(along Stortford Road to Market Place)
- 21:45 Oath taking ceremony commences (Market Place)

Fritch Fete & Arena Events

Talberds Ley Arena

12:00pm	Dunmow St Mary's Primary
12.30pm	Great Dunmow Primary
1:00 pm	Dunmow Kyokushinkai Karate Display
1.30pm	Helena Romanes School
2.00 pm	Youth Create Princess Vs Superhero
2:30 pm	Punch and Judy Show
3:00 pm	Granary Dance Studio
3:30pm	Parade Your Pooch Dog Show
4.00pm	Tug of War
4:30 pm	Punch and Judy Show

Fun Dog show

All Dogs Welcome

Enter your pooch for a fun competition And win various prizes awarded by our panel of judges.

Also, enter our canine musical chairs competition.



Prizes kindly donated by Happy Tails Pet Supplies, Dunmow

The arena events and times are subject to change at the discretion of the Trials Committee.
PA by Peter Noble

Tractors

Clog Dancers

Dunmow Horticultural Society Flower Show

Teas & Cakes & Ice Creams

Model Boats on the Doctor's Pond

Fun Dog Show

Pony Rides

Punch & Judy

Beer Tent

Batman Vs Elsa!

Thaxted Morris Men will be performing in various places throughout the day

Fritch Trials Procession & Oath Taking Ceremony

Penny Farthings

Pimm's Tent

Food Stalls

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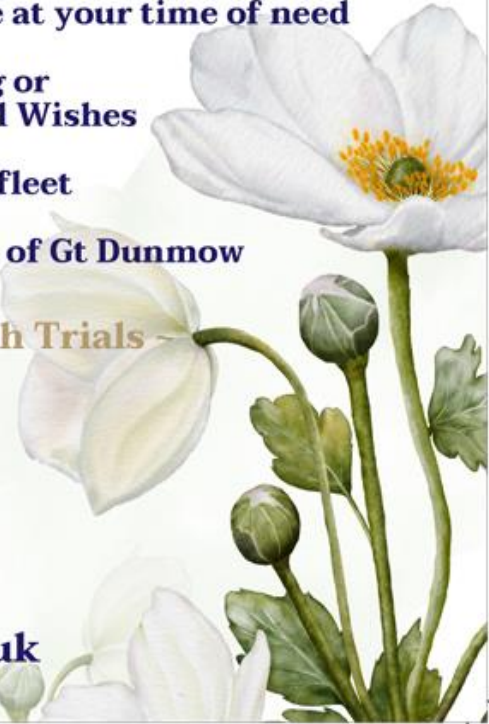
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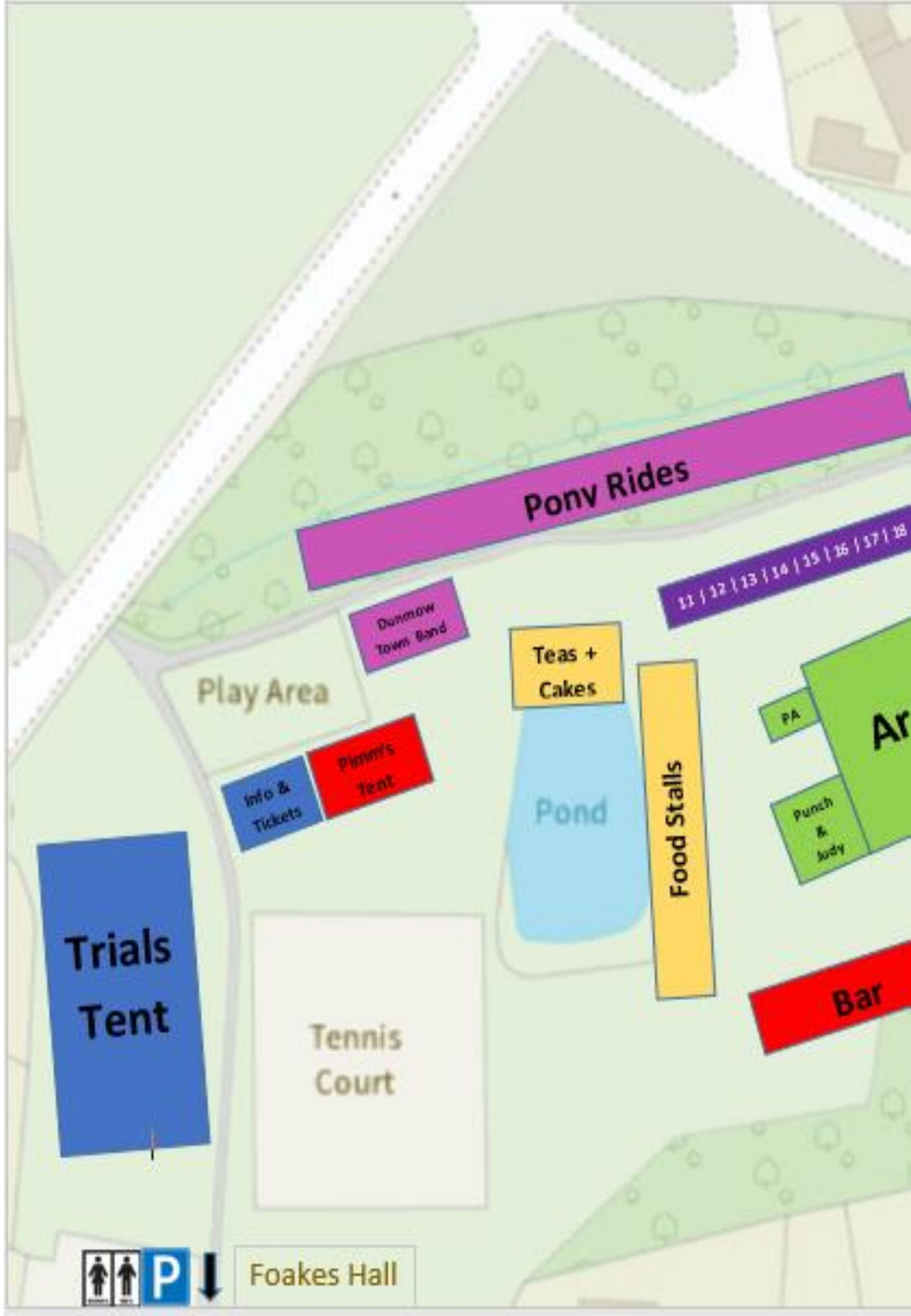


Famous Quotes on Marriage

Many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage – William Shakespeare

A happy marriage can bring a lifetime of love, companionship and fulfilment – but that doesn't mean we can't have a laugh at the playful jokes that often surround the topic. Here are some of the best.

1. A man doesn't know what happiness is until he's married. By then it's too late.
Frank Sinatra
2. If you want your wife to listen to you, then talk to another woman: she will be all ears.
Sigmund Freud
3. I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.
Rita Rudner
4. Marriage is the bond between a person who never remembers anniversaries and another who never forgets them.
Ogden Nash
5. We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.
Henry Youngman
6. As a man in a relationship, you have a choice: You can be right or you can be happy.
Ralphie May
7. By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.
Socrates
8. There is nothing in the world like the devotion of a married woman. It is a thing no married man knows anything about.
Oscar Wilde
9. When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.
Prince Philip
10. The best sign of a healthy relationship is no sign of it on Facebook
Anonymous
11. My husband and I have never considered divorce...murder sometimes, but never divorce.
Dr. Joyce Brothers
12. I married for love but the obvious side benefit of having someone around to find my glasses cannot be ignored.
Cameron Esposito
- 13.. The best thing to ever happen to marriage is the pause-live-TV button.
Rick Reilly



Pony Rides

11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18

Dunmow Town Band

Play Area

Info & Tickets

Pimm's Tent

Teas + Cakes

Pond

Food Stalls

PA

Punch & Judy

Ar

Trials Tent

Tennis Court

Bar



Foakes Hall



The Downs

Classic Tractors

Classic Tractors

Fire Engine

Doctor's Pond

Model Boats

Ice cream

18 | 19 | 20

12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18
Dunmow Horticultural

Arena

Fun Activities + games

Drink stalls

Star Lane

Mallards

Key

- Trials Tent
- Field Events
- Stall holders
- Food stalls
- Drink stalls
- Attractions
- Toilets
- Disabled Parking



Previous successful claimants...

1445	Richard Wright Badbourne, Norwich	1894	Mr & Mrs Angelo Fahie Monkstown, Dublin
1468	Stephen Samuel Little Easton, Essex	1894	Mr & Mrs Daniel Welch Essenden, Herts.
1510	Thomas Le Fuller Coggeshall, Essex	1895	Sgt Major Daniel & Mrs Louise Baker Plumstead, Kent
1701	William & Jane Parsley Much Easton, Essex	1895	Mr G & Mrs Jessie Kinnear Johnson Market Harborough, Leics.
1701	John & Ann Reynolds Hatfield Brodeoke, Essex	1895	Mr & Mrs James Clough Surlingham, Norfolk
1751	Thomas & Ann Shakeshaft Wethersfield, Essex	1896	Mr & Mrs Alfred Drury Queens College, Oxford
1773	John & Susan Gilder Tarlton, Essex	1896	Mr & Mrs Henry Johnson Lambeth, London
1851	Christopher Hurrell & Minnie Hurrell Felsted, Essex	1896	Edward & Susannah Rooke Great Amwell, Herts.
1855	James & Hannah Barlow Chipping Ongar, Essex	1897	Josiah & Mary Lambert Islington, London
1855	Jean-Baptiste F E & Clara De Chatelain London	1897	George & Eliza Taylor Little Leighs, Essex
1857	Thomas Jeremiah & Sarah Heard Bentley, Staffs.	1898	Frederick & Elizabeth Herbert Hounslow, Middx.
1869	William & Emma Casson Victoria Park, London	1898	James Frost Sutton, Surrey
1869	Josiah & Mary Leaver Clerkenwell, London	1899	Sgt Alexander & Mrs McCulloch Norwich
1874	Joseph & Hannah Clegg Roman Road, London	1900	Mr & Mrs Evelyn John Evatt Newcastle
1876	James Henry & Mary Boosey Ventnor, Isle of Wight	1900	James & Sarah Ann Munnings Pinner, Middx.
1877	James & Hannah Barrick Great Dunmow, Essex	1901	James Owers & Kate Devereaux Southwark, London
1880	Joseph & Sarah Thorne Bethnal Green, London	1901	Herbert Edgar & Amelia Elizabeth Clarke Stepney, London
1886	Lord George R Baron & Elizabeth Augusta Northwick Northwick Park, Gloucs.	1902	George H & Mary Edith Wallis Derby
1890	Mr & Mrs John Hoy Tottenham, London	1902	Alfred & Alice Brook Bromley, Kent
	<i>(This fitch was not awarded by the Jury but was given by a visitor to stop these unsuccessful claimants complaining.)</i>	1903	Mr & Mrs J C Keeble Northampton
1891	Rev & Mrs W C Wallace Highampton, Devon	1903	Mr & Mrs W L Jackaman Felixstowe, Essex
1891	William & Ellen Charlotte Bowen Hounslow, Middlesex	1904	Mr & Mrs Christopher Holford Putney, London
1891	Mr & Mrs William Robert White Wadhurst, Sussex	1904	James & Margaret Quiggan Marylebone, London
1892	Mr & Mrs Joseph Hird Bow, London	1905	Rev. Owen Francis Samuel Partridge & Elizabeth Jenkins Mold, North.Wales
1892	Mr & Mrs Dennis Bridgman Forest Hill, London	1905	Frederick John Garbett & Eva Jane Noakes Ludlow, Shropshire
1893	Mr & Mrs Francis Webb Wednesbury, Staffs	1906	Walter Stephen James & Gertrude Augusta Lloyd-Willey Bow, London
1893	Mr & Mrs Philip Garner West Molesey, Surrey	1906	Henry Lewis & Katherine Mary Morgan Bristol
		1912	Lewis Frank & Harriet Newberry Butcher Brixton, London

...of the Dunmow Fitch....

1912	Harry & Annie Smith Crewton, Derby	1960	Mr & Mrs T.A.Southey Wallington, Surrey
1913	Littlejohn & Lily Rose Wood Upper Holloway, London	1960	Mr & Mrs K Denton Headington, Oxford
1913	William & Agnes Hewett York	1960	Mr & Mrs Charles Williams Barnston, Essex
	1924 Mr & Mrs Thomas Mardy-Jones MP for Pontypridd	1963	Alderman & Mrs Stanley Wilson Saffron Walden, Essex
1930	E W & Ivy Walker Great Dunmow, Essex	1963	Mr & Mrs Masterton-Smith Roxborough Park, Harrow
1930	Frederick William & Winifred D Goodey Great Easton, Essex	1963	Mr & Mrs Vernon Horsnell Bradford, Yorkshire
1931	Edward Herbert & Winifred Jessie Devoil Great Dunmow, Essex	1968	Mr & Mrs C H Short Newton, Cambridgeshire
1931	Alfred Henry & Dorothy Elsie Cox London	1968	Mr & Mrs R C Stammers Great Dunmow, Essex
1931	Mr & Mrs G E Hodgetts Fulham, London	1968	Mr & Mrs P Lawrence Little Sampford, Essex
1932	Samuel Gilbert & Elizabeth Rose Nicholls Axminster, Devon	1977	Dr Lewis & Mrs Cynthia Castleden Great Dunmow, Essex
1932	Frederick William & Lucy Louisa Potter Poplar, London	1977	Mr Nigel & Mrs Ann Eastaway Takeley, Essex
1932	Mr & Mrs Andrew Sams Great Dunmow, Essex	1977	Mr & Mrs Frederick Pettitt Barnston, Essex
1933	Mr & Mrs G E Bird Hammersmith, London	1980	Jack & Audrey Harding, from Northolt Middlesex
1933	Mr & Mrs E C Cox Peckham, London	1980	Mr & Mrs John White from Lincoln
1933	Mr & Mrs Edwin Mann Woking, Surrey	1980	Michael & Judith Hurst from Panfield, Essex
1935	Ernest John & Lucy Elizabeth Wells New Cross Gate, London	1988	Russell & Marion Green Saffron Walden, Essex
1935	Mr & Mrs R Evans Lower Clapton, London	1988	Mr & Mrs Ivor Slater Grantchester, Cambs.
1935	Mr & Mrs G W McCaig Brunswick Sq. London	1992	Reginald William James & Madeleine Helen Beard
1938	Mr & Mrs C W Garner Islington, London	1992	Brian John & Olive Margaret Crosby
1938	Mr & Mrs J Bancroft Great Dunmow, Essex	1992	Geoff and Jeanette Green Little Easton, Essex
1938	Mr & Mrs R Compton Stradishall, Suffolk	1996	Wayne de Lisle & Sandra Bayley Sussex
1938	Mr & Mrs H V Clark Great Dunmow, Essex	1996	Robert Purcey & Kathryn Ann Chambers
1949	Mr & Mrs T C Cocker Newbold, Cheshire	1996	Alan & Sheila McGibney Chelmsford, Essex
1949	Mr & Mrs G E Hunt Penn, Bucks	2000	Michael Derek & Susan Corrinne Perry Great Dunmow, Essex
1949	Mr & Mrs W J Laws Great Dunmow, Essex	2000	Timothy Peter & Nicole Monique Sheehan Great Dunmow, Essex
1949	L E & Gladys Shelly Wolverhampton	2000	Alan Edward & Daphne Patricia Bradley South Woodham Ferrers, Essex
1951	Albert & Ethel Shakeshaft Goodmayes, Essex	2000	Fred & Joan Shepherd Great Dunmow, Essex
1951	Mr & Mrs CJR Faulkner Great Easton, Essex	2004	Ross & June Steele Great Dunmow, Essex
1951	Mr & Mrs D N Small		

You will note that sometimes only the names of husbands are recorded as being worthy of the Fitch. It has been suggested that this was because the bacon was a reward for the patience of enduring husbands!

...of the Dunmow Fitch... Continued

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 2004 | Percy & Barbara Balhaam
Copford Green, Essex

David Ensor & Goranka Gudelj
Barnston, Essex | 2016 | Ralph & Helen White, London, N1
Christopher Atkinson

Christopher Atkinson & Meredith Atkinson-Wood, Stebbing,
Essex |
| 2008 | Michael & Janet Denny
Rayleigh, Essex | | Mohammed Mizan Sabur & Emma Marcus,
Churchend, Great Dunmow |
| 2008 | Jeff Dotts & Erin Albers
Nashville, Tennessee, USA | | Dr Geoff & Caroline Parkes
Diseworth, Derbyshire |
| 2008 | Graeme Fearon & Amanda Horner
Ramsbury, Wiltshire | 2022 | Mr Mike O'Reilly & Dr Zanna Voysey
Churchend, Great Dunmow
Mr & Mrs Desmond & Minette Carter
Berkely, Michigan, USA
Mr & Mrs Chris & Helen Figg Christchurch, New Zealand |
| 2012 | Des & Claire Rayner
Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex | 2024 | Will anyone win in 2024?

Let the jury decide..... |
| 2012 | Mr & Mrs Steve & Pat Schorah
<i>Great Dunmow</i> | | |
| 2012 | Mr & Mrs Dave & Sue Gilham (<i>Spain</i>) | | |
| 2012 | Mr & Mrs John & Helen Wright
<i>Great Dunmow</i> | | |
| 2012 | Mr Matthew Harrington & Ms Julie Lovell
(<i>Dubbo, Australia, now resident in
Dulwich, London</i>) | | |



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We invite you to become a Friend of The Dunmow Flich Trials

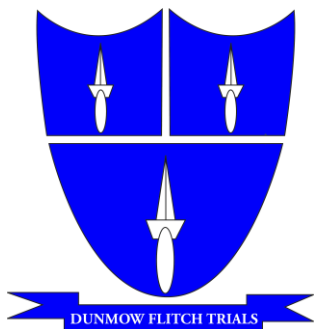
Become a Friend of the Dunmow Flich Trials.

As a Friend you will be helping to secure the future of this unique and ancient tradition.

Every four years the cost and complexity of the Trials increases. With your support, we can increase the network of people interested in preserving the custom and developing the event.

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- ❖ Email updates on Flich news and events, including an invite to our annual Christmas get together

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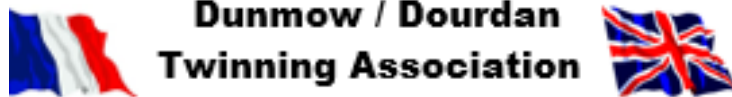
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Fritch Winners 2022

At the heart of every Fritch Trials are the Claimants. Married couples who put themselves forward to try to claim the bacon.

It makes no difference if they have been married 50 years or a year and two days, each claim is taken at face value by our Jury.

At our last Trials in 2022, Mike O'Reilly and Zanna Voysey were one of the successful winning couples.

Mike and Zanna, who got married in 2018, live in Churchend and have an (*Almost*) 4-year-old daughter Ren.



What made them want to enter?

We entered for a few different reasons. We loved that Dunmow upheld such a bonkers yet deeply historical tradition and wanted to help, support and show solidarity with that. We'd recently moved to the area and figured it was a great opportunity to meet people and feel part of the community. And we wanted to remind folks, particularly our age, that marriage can be a

wonderful thing when there's so much negativity about!

At any point did you think it was going wrong? I think we second guessed ourselves a little when we realised we had to go through interviews etc - I'm not sure we realised what we'd let ourselves in for!

What happened when you did win?

It was such a heart-warming experience to feel the support of the crowd for us as a couple, but also to see the town come together in such a happy way.

Would you recommend it to anyone else?

We'd fully recommend it to anyone!

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Please see our website walshfunerals.com for more details or phone us on **01371 856274** or email info@walshfunerals.com

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Rotary is making a difference to everyone and

you can help. Dunmow Rotary is open to men and women in every age bracket and we meet regularly for business, social and charitable activities. So not only will you be helping others but you will open up a whole new social life and create business networking opportunities.



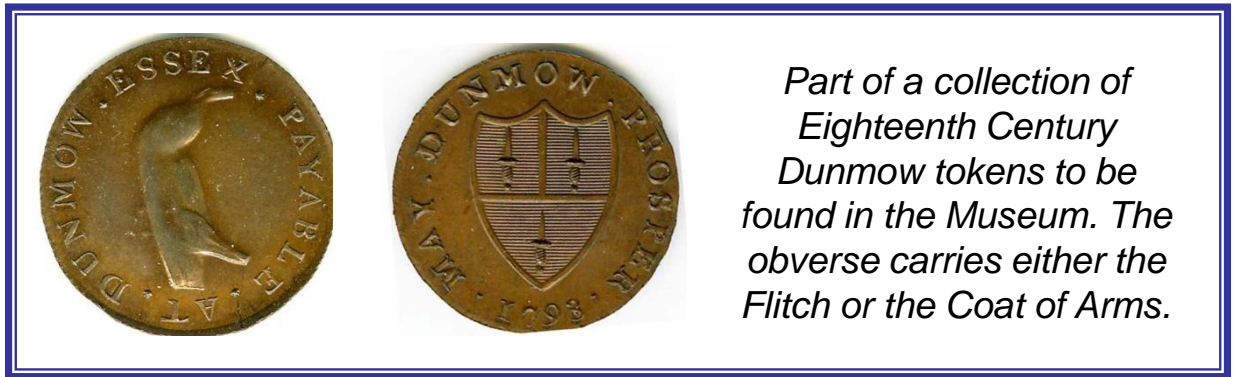
Joining Rotary may be one of the best decisions you ever make - it has been for 1.25 million members worldwide!

If you want to find out more email dunmow.rotary@gmail.com or scan the QR code to access our website.

The Great Dunmow Museum

Why not come along and learn more about the rich heritage of Great Dunmow and the surrounding areas?

The Great Dunmow Museum is an independent, volunteer-run local social history Museum. The basis of the collection has been put together by members of the Dunmow Collectors Club and numerous items are continually being donated. Exhibitions are changed regularly and currently include many items of Flich memorabilia and souvenirs dating back to 1855 when the Flich Trials moved to Great Dunmow.



There is a small collection of 19th Century Flich engravings, one depicting the marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert, and an assortment of Flich programmes and souvenirs, old and new. The Museum is home to one of the chairs used to carry winning couples in the procession, the robes worn by the Judge are on display and also a large painting commissioned by the Flich Committee. There are further images from old postcards and actual photographs of various Trials during the 20th century.

Please bear in mind some of the Flich exhibition will be in use at the 2024 Flich Trials and will therefore not be available in the Museum on Trials day.

The Museum is open weekends from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm.
Admission is free, donations welcome



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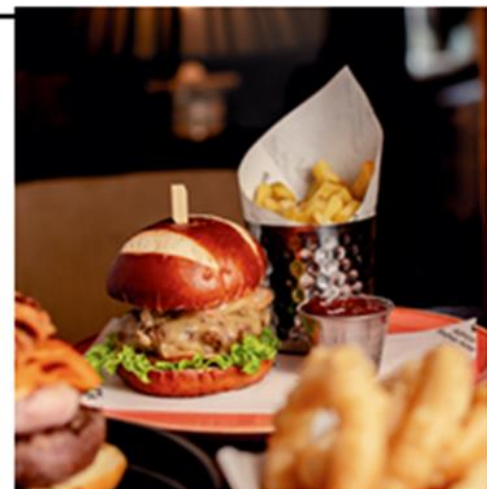


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Roll of Honour 2024

The Dunmow Flitch Trials is an historical event of which this town is rightly proud. However, as anyone who has been involved in organising such events will tell you, it takes an extraordinary amount of time, commitment and money to make it happen.

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Saracens Head for hosting art exhibition

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Andrea Hepworth-Judge

Bryan Haines - Judge

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Dunmow Maltings & Museum for looking after the Flitch artefacts

Dunmow Rotary Club for acting as Court Bailiffs & a generous cash donation from the Colinson Legacy Fund

Dunmow Round Table for supplying road management, and the beer tent

Dunmow Tennis Club for loaning their club house

Elevate Envirotech

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Foot Taylor Solicitors

Flitch Travel for selling tickets

Flitch Trials Minstrels – Tamzin, Carwyn, Fran and Seb & Eli for their fanfare and ancient music.

Fuchsia Exhibition Services – for supplying carpet, bunting, flag poles

Frank Gates for their cash donation

Great Garnett's for providing a Flitch for display around town

Great Dunmow Town Council for their generous cash donation

Graham Barker

Happy Tails Pet Supplies

Andrew Lodge of Lodge Coaches for loan of the Oath-taking 'Dray' truck

Irene Walker catering services **Jacks of Dunmow**

Ross Karklins for brilliantly organising the Flitch Bearers

Roll of Honour 2024

Kathleen, Jackie and Charlotte *from Dunmow Post Box Toppers*

Little Easton Manor

Andrew Lodge of Lodge Coaches *for loan of the Oath-taking 'Dray' truck*

M & B Print

Maureen Corder *at The Hat Lady 01376 329716 for the Maidens hats*

Mel Inwood, *for feeding the committee*

Mike Perry *for taking the official photographs*

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John Davey *for hosting guests*

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The Saracens Head *for donating the use of their meeting room*

The Starr *for displaying the Flicht banner*

The Rose Garden *for decorating the marquee, dray & Flicht of Bacon and the maiden's posies*

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UDC - *generous cash donation through the Community project grant programme*

We thank the Market Place and Arena performers; the local land owners who let us display our banners; our advertisers for their support in this programme and the residents of Rosemary Lane, Market Place, Star Lane, Stortford Road, North Street, The Maltings and surrounding roads for their forbearance with the road closures.

Dunmow Flicht Trials Organising Committee 2024

Mark Jones Chair, Helen Haines Vice-Chair, Richard Burlend, Mike Coleman, Andy Hood, Jody Huizar, Ant Lees, Emma Marcus, Mike Perry, Kay Puddick, Ross Karklins, Adam Sandford, Lucy Sandford, David Sellens, John Stanley, Alan Stratton, Mizan Sabur, Martin Sycamore Rob Tonkin, Karen Thurley, Tania Williams, Leoni White

Trials Raffle 2024

In the Trials Marquee we have three fantastic Hampers, stuffed with goodies to the value of £300 to be won in each of the three Trials sittings (*Morning, Afternoon & Evening*).

Please buy a ticket and see if today is your day!



Our Trials Hampers Contain: (Subject to availability)

- Chameleon Café** - £10 vouchers & Flitch Trial Mugs
- Dougie Pickford** - Jar of local Essex honey
- Fairfield's Farm Crisps** – Large bags of crisps
- 5 Physio Dunmow**- Sports massages vouchers
- Greetings of Dunmow** – Bows and ribbon for Hampers
- Happy Tails Pet Supplies** – Bags Dog Treats
- Heather B Design** - Gift
- iPad Screen Repairs** – Gift
- Jacks 1952 (Dunmow)** - 'Pop' wine glasses and wine bottle holders
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- Maldon Salt** – limited edition apron and variety of Maldon salts and pinch tins
- Meadow Hill Coffee Shop & Deli** - Hampers and arrangement of goodies and wrapping
- Michele Brooker Physiotherapy** – Fruit teas and Candles
- Mrs M's Sweets** - Sweets
- Ropers & Yogi Chemists** – Gift
- The Sofa Design Studio** – Posh Bottle of Wine
- Tesco** - Finest pink champagne
- The Angel & Harp** £15 Gift Vouchers
- The Beauty Parlour** – Lovely candle
- The Courtyard Brewery** –Bag of Brewery Goodies
- The Curiosity Shop** - Gift
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- The Interiors Store** - Gift Vouchers
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Our First Female Bearer in 900 Years!

The Dunmow Flitch Trials, the ancient custom of Dunmow, dating back over 900 years, has a new chapter in the story this year.

This year, we are proud to have our first ever female Bearer in 900 years of Trials.

Bearers are the 'Humble Folk' of Dunmow who carry the Flitch of Bacon, and the Flitch chairs during the processions. If a couple is fortunate enough to win a Flitch, they are 'Chaired' (Carried) shoulder high, through the town in the Flitch chair to Market Place where they take the Flitch Oath 'kneeling a-while' on pointed stones.



Landscape Architect, **Laura Cohen** is a Dunmow girl who went to Rosemary Lane Infant, High Stile Junior and HRS secondary Schools. After leaving school she worked as a builder before training at Writtle College to be a Landscape Architect.

Laura was having a pint in a local pub with Chief Bearer Ross Karklins and she expressed an interest in being a Bearer (*One of the Humble Folk*) as she knew quite a few of the team already and thought it would be great to be involved.

Ross checked the rules - there are no rules in the Trials constitution preventing women, so on the 13th July, Laura will become the first ever female, in 900 years to carry the Flitch in the ancient custom of Dunmow.



Laura says, "I'm very excited to be involved. I used to be a builder so carrying on my shoulder is nothing new. My dad was also a butcher so I grew up around the meat industry. I am looking forward to contributing in a meaningful way toward the days events and supporting a long tradition in a town I have always lived. I think it will be great fun to be a Bearer and am looking forward to joining the team"

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