

Emsworth's Visiting Dentist

MR MALLESON

DENTIST and CUPPER,

(of the late law firm of Heywood and Malleison, London)

in respectfully soliciting the patronage of the inhabitants of Chichester and its vicinity, begs to assure those who favour him by their notice, of his best endeavours, being at all times used to merit their approbation.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH *supplied, and the regulation of Children's Teeth that important requisite to their future preservation and beauty of appearance, carefully attended to.*

EXTRACTION *is on the usual terms, and all other operations on the TEETH at an equally moderate charge.*

CUPPING. *This operation, which, when properly performed, is attended with but little pain and rarely exceeds ten minutes in duration, is highly beneficial in all complaints of the head, arising from fullness of blood, such as pains, heaviness, swimming, giddiness, &c the usual forerunners of apoplexy and paralytic attacks.*

Terms for Cupping at home 3s. 6d.

Abroad in Chichester 5s. 0d.

Out of Chichester according to distance.

Mr Malleison will attend at Mr Stride's Post Office, Emsworth, on Thursday 23rd May, from eleven till three, and every alternate Thursday at the same hours.

North-street Chichester, nearly opposite Council Chamber.

Don't be alarmed! The advertisement above appeared in *The Hampshire Telegraph* on 20 May 1833. An advertisement announcing Mr Harry Malleison's arrival in the area had appeared previously in *The Hampshire Telegraph* on 4 June 1832.

MR MALLESON, DENTIST and CUPPER *of the late firm of Heywood and Malleison, London, respectfully announces his having resumed his Professional Pursuits at Portsmouth, on his usual moderate terms, 39, St Thomas's Street.*

In the 19th century dentistry was not a recognised profession, as the reproduced print of 1823 illustrates. Barbers and general physicians would carry out dental procedures. The barbers would limit their practice to extracting teeth to alleviate pain and historically dental extractions were used to treat a variety of illnesses.

Cupping is an ancient medical treatment that relies upon creating local suction to mobilise blood flow in order to promote healing. The cupping-glass was applied to the skin to draw blood to the area by exhausting the air from the glass using heat. It was surprising to learn that cupping is a much loved treatment among celebrities today as reported in *The Daily Mail* this year, 2013. The actress Jennifer Aniston was pictured with cupping marks on her back relying on the therapy to boost her fertility. However others take the view that there is no good



evidence that cupping helps any condition – except the dreaded condition of celebrities craving attention.

Mr Malleson was to use a room in Mr John Stride's Post Office*. At that time the Post Office was situated somewhere between The Crown and The Ship on the High Street in Emsworth. He aimed to visit this temporary surgery every two weeks for four hours every other Thursday to treat patients. The Post Office in Emsworth was established on 23 December 1829 and John Stride, a professional librarian, was appointed Emsworth's first Deputy Postmaster with a 'bond' of £300. The letters arrived every morning at 8am and departed each evening at 6pm. In 1834 he was dismissed and replaced by James Cobby.

Harry Malleson was married to Marie Francoise Pfender, who was Swiss, on 28 December in Chelsea. In 1833 she also placed an advertisement offering education and tuition in French to two young ladies along with two others and her two daughters Mary and Emily, as day boarders or pupils.

The following advertisement was really the start of my interest in Mr Malleson. On 11 April 1836 in *The Hampshire Telegraph*:

MR MALLESON,

DENTIST,

Little London, Chichester,

respectfully announces that he continues to supply ARTIFICIAL TEETH from a single Tooth to a complete set, without the slightest pain, and calculated to answer every purpose of mastication and articulation. Scaling, Stopping &c, and every operation connected with Teeth, on moderate terms.

What had sparked my interest was that as a dentist I used to practise in Little London more than 30 years ago.

Unfortunately an announcement in *The London Gazette* on 2 December 1837 finds Mr Malleson at Horsham at the Court for the relief of insolvent debtors. He is described as a cupper, dentist and dispensing assistant to a surgeon. Later the 1841 Census describes Henry Malleson, 50 years old, as having a change of profession, now a Schoolmaster. He is living with his wife and three children Frederick, Mary and Emily in the parish of Storrington. I understand Harry Nathaniel Paice Malleson died in 1844 in Thakenham, Sussex.

Cupping may have returned but I cannot predict that the dentistry of 1823 will make a re-appearance any time soon.

Wendy Bright BDS (Birm.)

*The Great Britain Philatelic Society Deputy Postmaster Appointments

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