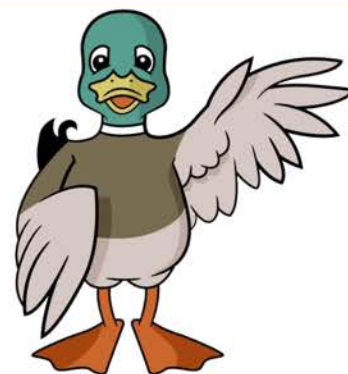


HM HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM

A message from....
Bill the Duck!



Hi everyone! 🖐️ I'd love to show you around the Georgian Room and all the great artefacts in here today. During the Georgian period big fancy houses were popular – like Canons and Bentley Priory in Stanmore. Did you know, a queen even lived at Bentley Priory in the Georgian period – Dowager Queen Adelaide! 👑

Headstone got a makeover, too – the timber frame of the house was covered by a fashionable brick façade and alterations were made to the inside of the house to bring it 'up to date'. As this room was part of the original 15th Century Manor House, it has some odd quirks! There are two windows from the original house that have now been blocked in, one of them is even on an inside wall as this would have been the end of the original house! 🪟

This room also would have been where the garderobe (or toilet!) was. Now this small room is just a funny little addition to the house, but I certainly hope it wasn't this dark in there when they were trying to use it! 🚽

The Georgian times in Harrow have given us some interesting characters, including Daniel Dancer, the Miser of Harrow. He was well known for his strange money saving ways, including washing in puddles and never using soap, he must have been smelly! 🧼

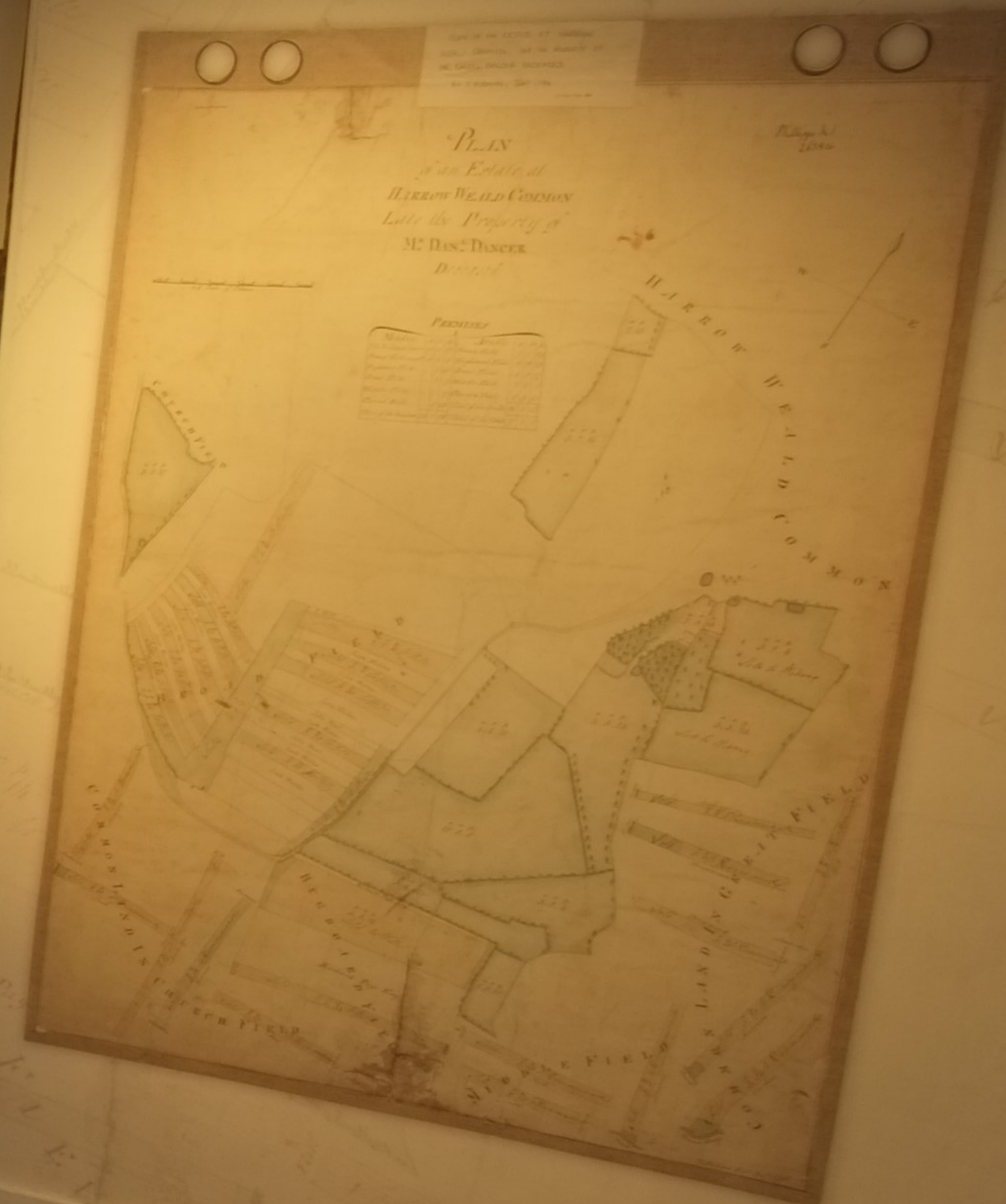
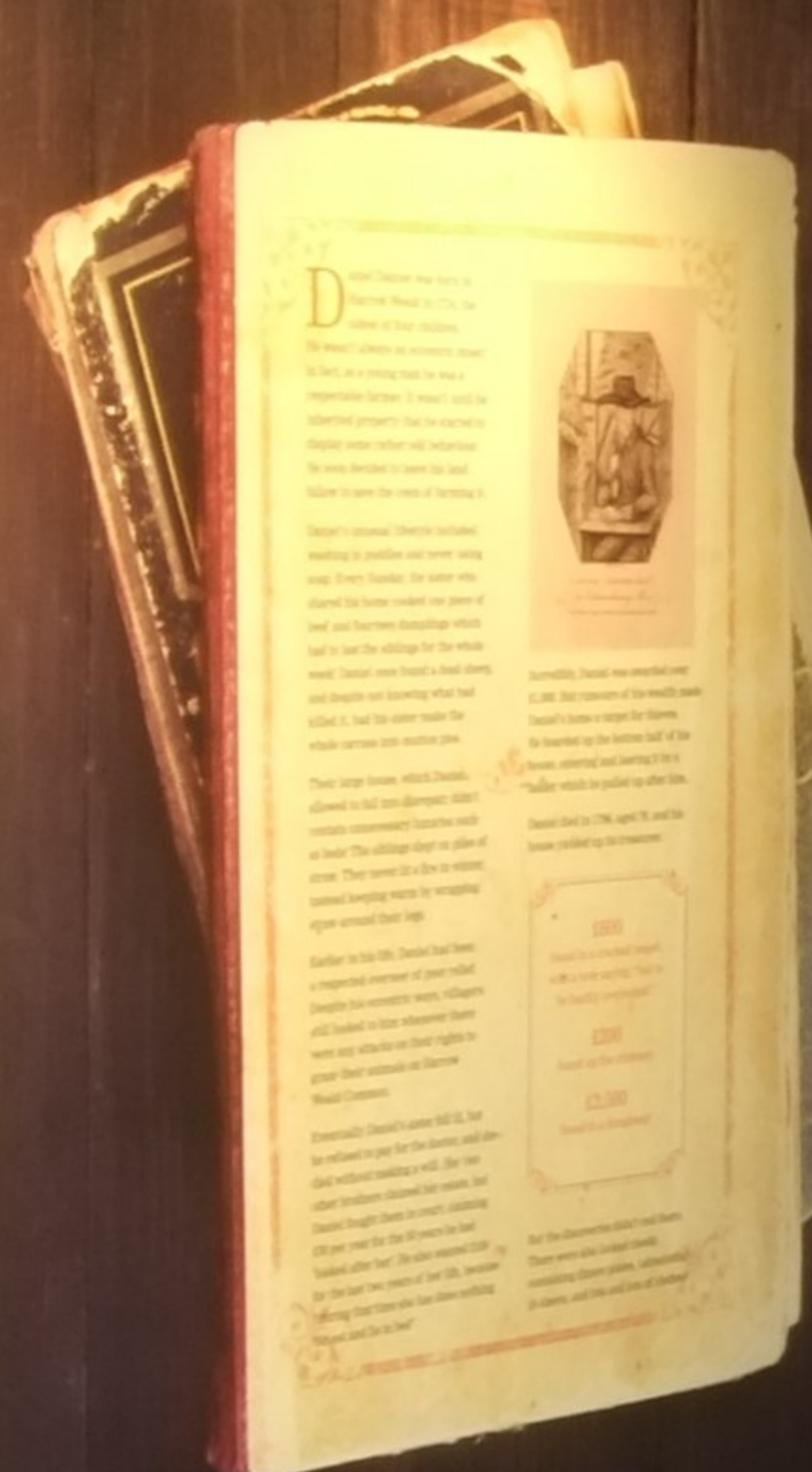
Hmm I think I might go and have a bath in the moat after talking about that! See you soon! 🛁

HARROW'S HEYDAY OF GEORGIAN GLAMOUR

During the Georgian period (1714 - 1837) it was very important for anyone with aspirations of rank to establish their place in society. Winning approval from the right people was a stepping stone to even greater wealth and status. Fashion was everything, and that meant fashionable architecture, entertainment and landscaping as well as clothes.



DANIEL DANCER, THE MISER OF HARROW



Welcome to the Georgian Room!
Here you can learn about Daniel Dancer...
who may have been the inspiration for
Ebenezer Scrooge!

In the medieval house, this door would have led to a garderobe – which is just a fancy word for the loo!

Garderobe grandeur

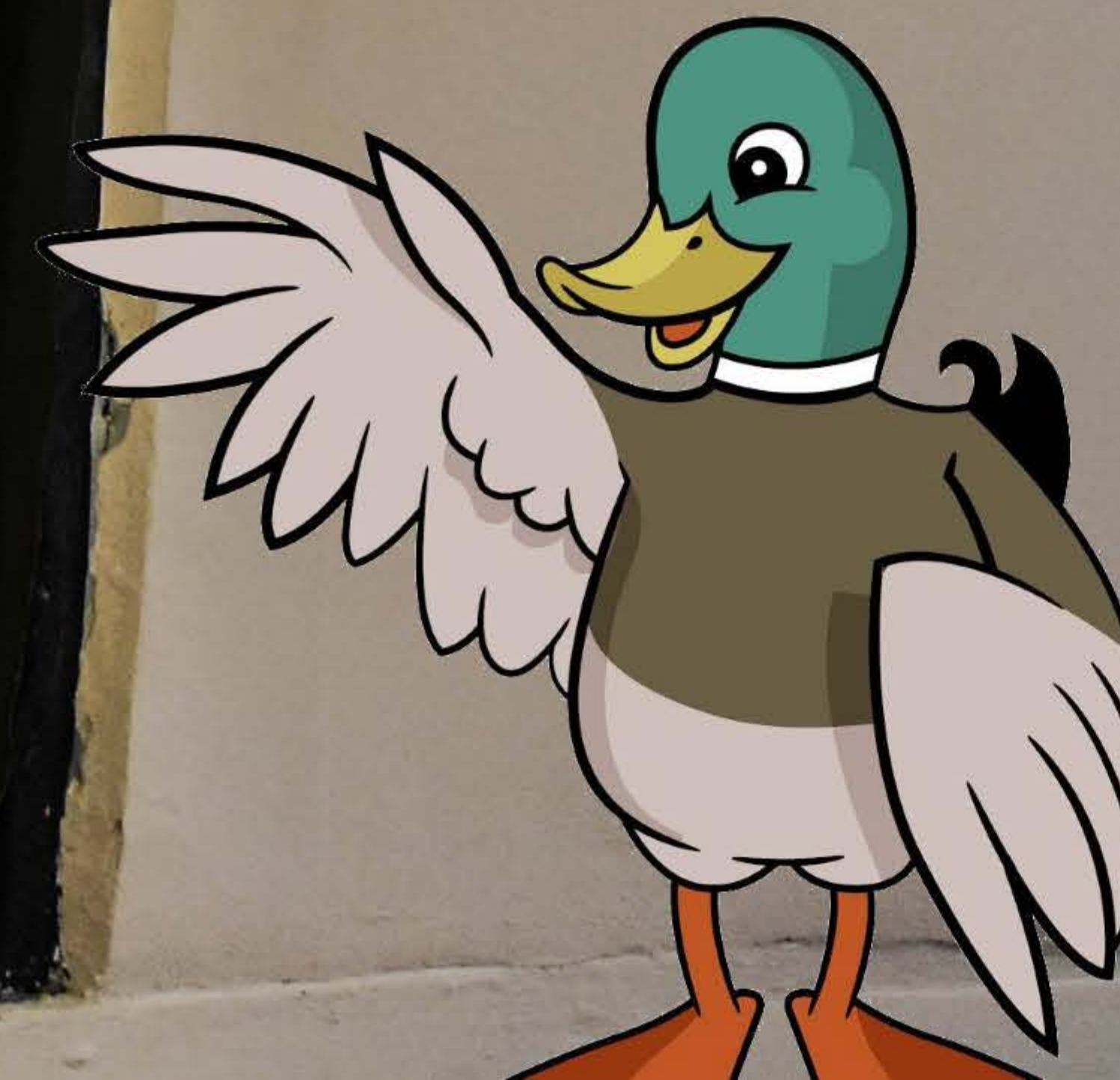


Garderobe, meaning wardrobe in French, was the medieval name for a small private room, often a toilet. Clothes hung there would be protected from moths because of the ammonia. Typically, waste from the toilet went down a wooden chute in to a barrel in a small room below. A servant, called a gongfermour, would empty it. This facility is indicative of the grandeur of this medieval house.

Garderobe window



Door for the gongfermour to empty the toilet barrel



Many of the objects in the Museum from the Georgian period come from archaeological excavations; here at the Manor House, in Pinner, at Halls Farm, and all over Harrow! Like a wine bottle, clay pipe stems, and possibly even this George III ‘cartwheel’ twopenny!



2017:87



Archaeology is one of the best ways to find out about the distant past!

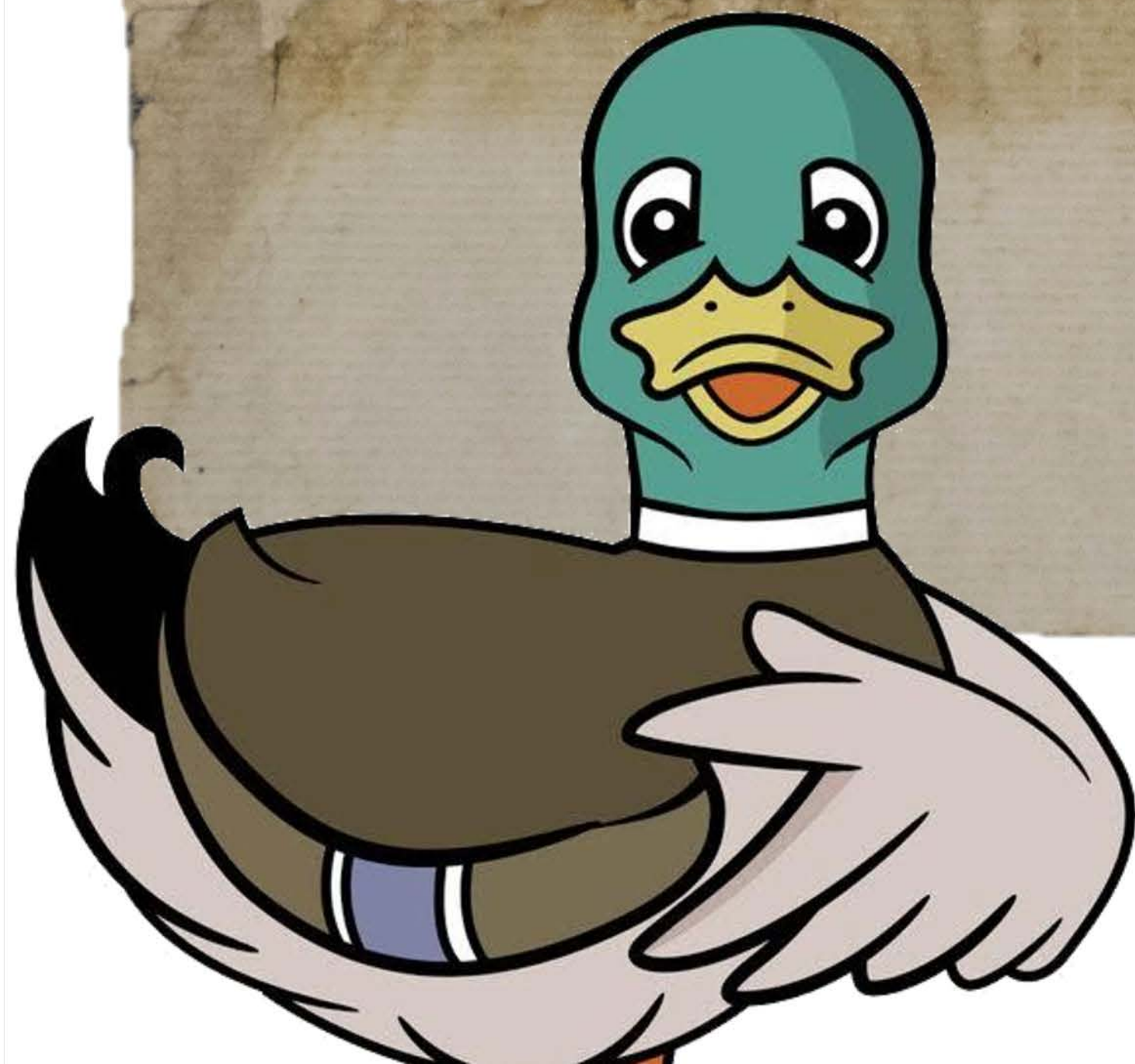
Have you been on a dig, or found anything old in the ground in your garden?



2007:35

2017:61

We also found this incredible original Georgian-era letter from Mary Shelley in the Archive.
She's best known as the author of *Frankenstein*!



She lived in Harrow whilst her son,
Percy, attended Harrow School.

[Page 1] Harrow, Wednesday

Dear Sir

I am glad that my book is printing at last & at the very outset I am going to give you trouble. You see the motto to Chapter II.

Tranquillity thou better name
Than all the family of fame

This is taken from a poem of Coleridge's published in the Friend – I forget the following verses – two of them are

The bubble floats before

[Page 2] The shadow stalks behind

I want to go the whole or greater part of them (the two standing alone as they do are nonsense) as the motto – but I have not the Friend nor Coleridge's Poems – a friend of mine here has the former work so I thought I could refer to it at any time – But when I sent for it I found that his is the second edition, so unamended as to leave out most of [Page 3] the verses & especially those I want – Will you look in Coleridge's Poems and put in the verses as you find them but adapted – This is one of the evils of being out of town but I cannot help it.

I am not sure that you will find the verses in the collection called the Sibylline Leaves but you will in [illegible] Edition & the neighbourhood of Saunders and Ottly [sic] will render it not very difficult I trust for you to [illegible].

[Page 4] I will not shall be very expeditious in future in returning the proofs.

I will [line illegible where paper torn]

I shall write again in a day or two.

Yours [illegible]

MW Shelley