

Cuckold's Haven HISTORY

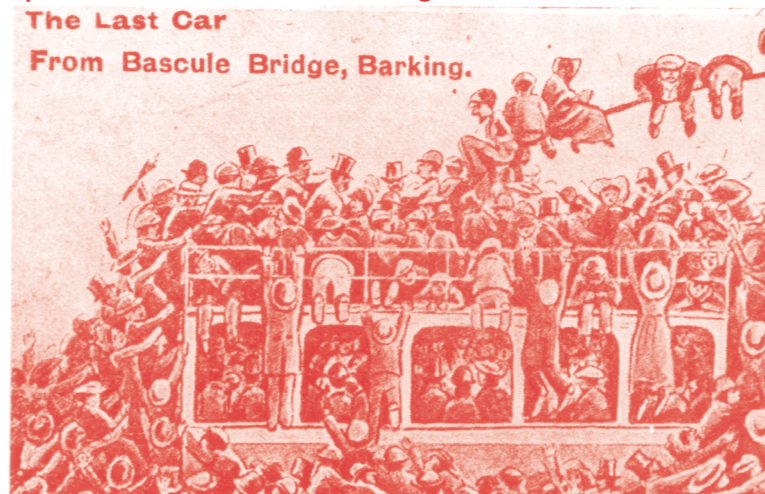
THE BASCULE BRIDGE

Just downstream from this panel you can see the remains of the Bascule Bridge. The bridge was opened in 1903 and carried an electric tramway over the River Roding. It could be raised to allow river traffic to proceed up or downstream. The trams ran between Barking and Beckton where many local people were employed at the gas works. In 1928 a new bus service made the tramway redundant and it closed in February 1929.



ABOVE: The Bascule Bridge, from the north shore in 1919. 'Bascule' means a lever apparatus using a counterpoise - a similar operation as a drawbridge.

The Last Car
From Bascule Bridge, Barking.



The tram service had a notorious reputation for too many passengers squeezing aboard and thereby making it impossible for the ticket collector to move through the car and collect all the fares!

BARKING JUTE WORKS

In 1866, what was then reputed to be the largest jute works in the U.K., was opened at the southern end of Fisher Street in Barking by Thomas Duff. The processes he used were new and therefore needed an experienced workforce, which he imported from Dundee in Scotland. One of the items made were mail sacks for the newly created 'penny post' of Rowland Hill.



Jute is a plant that comes from India and its fibrous qualities, ideal for making rope and coarse canvas, have been appreciated for centuries.



A frozen Barking Creek in 1895

ICE HOUSES

Barking has been involved with the deep sea fishing industry since medieval times. But it was during the 19th century that it dramatically expanded. Samuel Hewitt, a Scotsman, devised a way to keep his fishing fleet at sea longer than his competitors. For the first time he used ice to preserve the fish ready for the London markets. During the winter months ice was gathered from every available source around Barking including the fields, puddles and the Creek itself and transported by horse and cart to the ice houses Hewitt built in Fisher Street.

