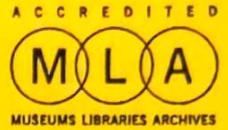


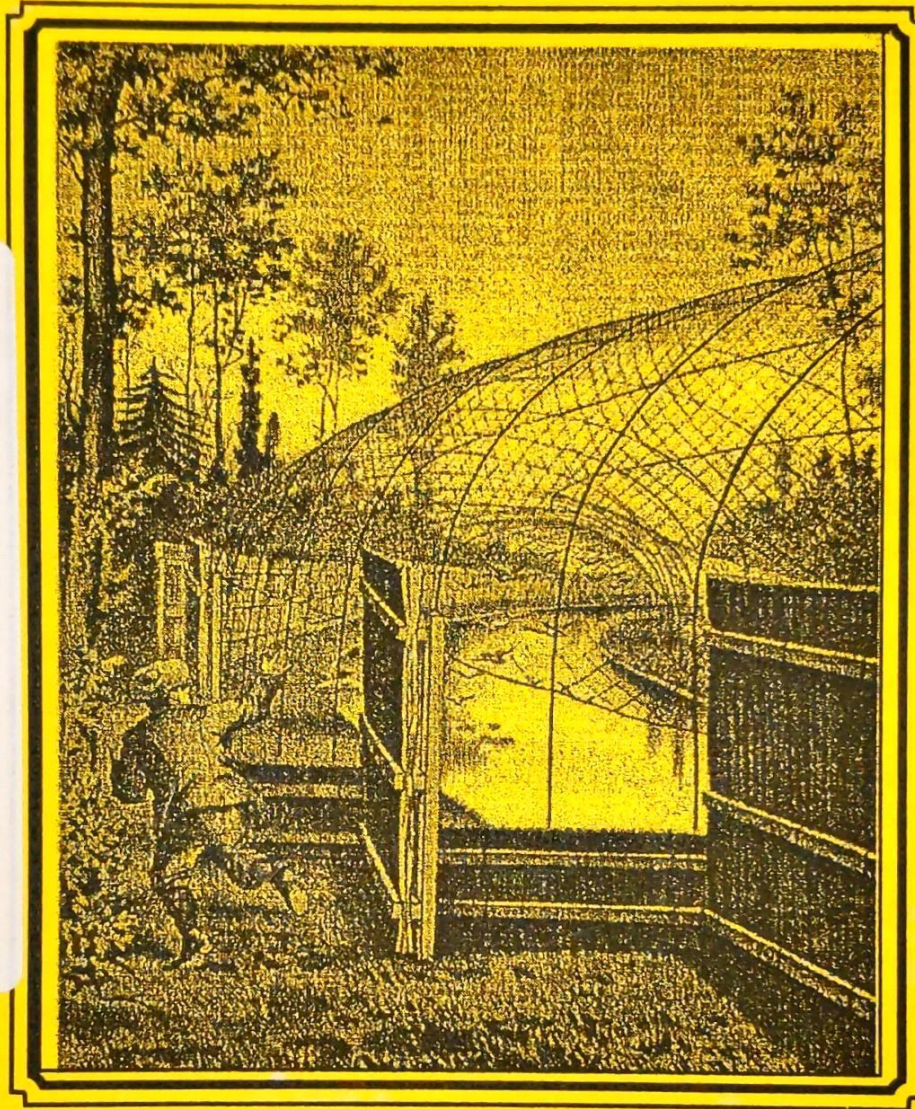
# THE PENNY



# FARTHING



The Maldon District Museum Association Newsletter



## The decoyman's art - page 12

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

In the late spring of this year I hit my lowest point since being elected chairman in 1996. At the six-monthly liaison committee with the MDC in October last I reported that our 10 year lease on the Promenade Lodge lapsed this year and that we were seeking a further lease for a similar period.

Unfortunately this has coincided with a period of great financial stringency in local government with the value of every possession of the council being rigorously examined. The Promenade Lodge was assessed for its value for sale and also for commercial rent. We had little feedback during this time as, sadly, both councillors on the liaison committee were unwell and rumour flourished.

Our vice chairman, Christine Steel, aided by Judy Betteridge and Liz Willsher, lobbied councillors on our behalf, for it appeared that we were going to be asked for a rent in excess of £5,000 pa and that even sale of the Museum building was being contemplated. By the stage that these unpalatable facts were put before us, the lobbying had had an effect and we were offered an extension of the peppercorn lease for a further year but the lease, thereafter, would involve payment of some annual rent.

This is not a new suggestion as the original lease dating from 1996 includes the payment of a rent once our takings from admissions exceed £3,000 pa, which has never occurred so there may be a planned lowering of the bar! At the very worst it seemed that we may not have been able to open this year after a winter's work by the display team and helpers. Fortunately this has not happened and the Museum is up and running, looking better than ever. However, we must review our finances including the cost of admission and group visit fees. If we are to pay a rent this must be met from this income stream and not from donations and monies raised by our very popular bric-a-brac stall. We shall continue to work with Maldon District Council to arrive at a solution that avoids the loss of the Museum, which is so much enjoyed by those that visit, providing a first class attraction to the town and reminding those involved in the decision making that it is run by volunteers to the highest standards at a very modest cost to the community.

My worst nightmares have been avoided thanks to the efforts of our very active committee and by all of our members, who, at each stage, have given freely of their support.

At our AGM on 17th May I handed over reins of the Association to Christine Steel, who has been such a help over the past 6 months. I wish Christine all good fortune in the post and look forward to reading her 'Chat' in future Penny Farthings! Very many thanks to all.

**Paddy Lacey**

*Penny Farthing* is dependent upon your contribution.

All articles, items, photos, comments and letters are welcome:  
Please send to: Kelvin Brown, 22 Granger Avenue, Maldon CM9 6AN.  
Tel: 01621 856528 or e-mail: kelvinbrown @ tinyworld.co.uk

Last date for copy for autumn issue 5 August 2011

# We need your ideas and time to raise funds

Fund-raising is seldom easy, but it is becoming a necessity for organisations such as the Museum as pressure on financial resources grows.

Admission charges and sales to visitors cannot pay all of the running costs, and times are getting tougher, so ideas and time are needed to raise cash.

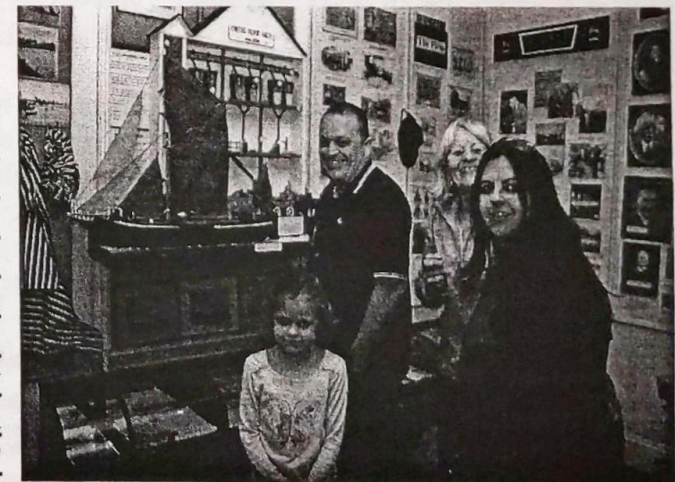
Liz and Eric Willsher, with a small band of willing volunteers, ran one of the now-familiar Bank Holiday bric-a-brac stalls outside the front door in May, and raised £188.72, for which Liz said: "Thanks to everyone who helped on the day."

There must be 101 things that could be organised fairly simply to help top up the coffers.

How about organising a coffee morning, running a stall at a car boot sale, organising a sponsored event such as a walk - which could simply be a stroll around the Promenade - or baking and selling a few cakes.

If you have an idea, please contact one of the committee.

Among the first visitors to the Museum this season were the Harris family from Pitsea - Justin, Sue, Nicola and Daizy-Mai. "It's great," said dad Justin. "It's just a shame every town hasn't got a museum like this"



# On yer bike! New display celebrates Edwardian cycling

New for 2011 is a display entitled 'On yer bike' featuring the Museum's penny farthing bicycle, which is staged in the area previously showing 'Health in Maldon'.

The display includes Cecil and his attractive companion, suitably attired in period dress, together with related documents and photographs.

Cycling was the preserve of rich men until about the 1870s, largely because the penny farthing was considered inappropriate for lady riders, for both modesty and anatomical reasons.

However, the introduction of the safety bicycle in the 1880s changed that because its smaller frame and lower seating position - and later pneumatic tyres - made cycling not only safer but far more comfortable.

Cycling became an attractive pastime for both sexes and, by 1890, the Cyclists' Touring Club had 60,000 members, including 20,000 women.



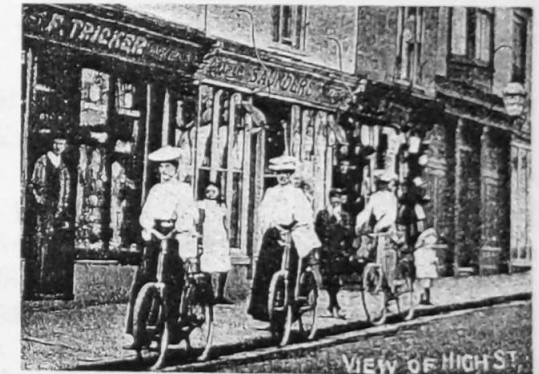
It became a fashionable pastime, with its own female fashion code, and women revelled in becoming independently mobile.

However, by the end of the Victorian period the bicycle had moved from a high status vehicle of the rich and leisured classes to transport for 'ordinary' people, and cycling enjoyed new popularity.

**Maldon and District Cycling Club was formed in 1953 as Crouch Cycling Club**



The penny farthing wheel high on the gable in the picture above told everyone that this was indeed a cycle shop. It was where Mr Bate did business



There were no lycra shorts or cycling helmets when these Edwardian ladies made their elegant way along the High Street on their upright bicycles.

The premises behind include Mrs Elizabeth Saunders' draper's shop, which she ran from around 1906 until some time after 1913; her husband Harry also carried on his business as a painter and decorator from the address. The shop to the right was W.Cook, who described his business as 'Oil and Italian Warehouse' and was there from 1906 until at least 1929.

# From Pipe's to Sancho's

## The story of 122 High Street

To many of the older residents of Maldon, number 122 High Street is still, in their minds at least, 'Pipe's the Butchers'. That is not surprising really because Harry Pipe and his family ran a very well-respected and successful business there from 1937 (with just a short break in the early 1970s) right through to fairly recent times.

I still have happy memories of the banter that took place between my maternal grandmother and Harry when she used to buy her meat from him. However, Harry Pipe wasn't the earliest butcher to trade from 122 – he followed on in a long tradition of people selling meat from the building going right back to the 1840s.

The story of the bricks and mortar takes us even further into the past and we are fortunate in being able to glimpse the early years of 122 High Street through a series of surviving deeds and conveyances in the Essex Record Office. An 'Absolute Surrender' of the estate reveals that it was originally part of a private house and, along with numbers 124 (now the Cook Shop) and 126 (Reeve's) formed "a messuage and gardens" with the unusual name

By Stephen P. Nunn

'Nottinghams'. The earliest known occupant of 'Nottinghams' was the Rev Robert Lee Bridge, Perpetual Curate (from 1832) and then Rector (from 1866 until 1874) of St. Mary's church, Maldon.

Shortly afterwards the name "Mr. Loker" appears as holding the property. This was probably William Loker, a successful boot and shoe maker of Fullbridge. The next individual named as occupying 'Nottinghams' was one Alexander Charles Handley (1824-1892) a draper and commercial traveller. Handley was a particularly well-known local surname throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and other members of the



122 High Street today



C. M. HANDLEY,  
FAMILY BUTCHER  
122, HIGH STREET, MALDON.  
PRIME MEATS! BEST QUALITY! FAIR PRICES  
A SPECIAL BUTCHERY

HARRY J. PIPE  
FAMILY BUTCHER  
122 High Street, Maldon  
Phone 41

Our Aim is Satisfaction! Finest! American! Great!  
Also at the Square, Haveridge  
Phone 100  
Shop with the Private Trader

The High Street was certainly quieter 100 years ago

family, successive generations of the Handleys, would go on to have very close links with the place.

A brief break from Handley ownership occurred when William Wright had it, but then it passed back to a David Handley (b.1822) who we are told was a butcher using number 122 from 1848 – and so began a remarkable heritage of the butcher's trade operating from this location. At that stage 122 formed part of a block of shops that also included a grocers' and clothiers at 124 and 126 run by under-tenants, Messrs. White and Son.

The butcher's business at 122 was then taken over by David's son, Charles Murrel Handley (1843-1927) who went on to buy all three shops from the then owner, Sarah Brown (the widow of a wealthy Piccadilly hotel

keeper) on 10 February 1875 for £950. Charles was a Christadelphian preacher, a Maldon Borough Councillor (from 1883 to 1902) and a Guardian of St. Mary's parish. He continued to own the shops and let 122 to William Charles Firmin who carried on as a butcher there until disaster struck during the early hours of 15<sup>th</sup> January 1910.

At 2am a fire broke out at number 124 and quickly spread to the adjacent structures. William Firmin's four young children, three girls and a boy, had to be rescued from an upstairs window with a ladder by a neighbour. If you look up at the bay window today and use your imagination, you can connect with the past and the

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## From previous page

events of all those years ago.

All three shops were gutted by the fire and Charles Handley sold what was left of them to William Firmin for just £220.

Reconstruction work took place and 122 opened yet again as a butchers. By 1922 William Percy Archer was the butcher and in 1937 Harry Pipe moved in – working out of the shop and living above with his family. The shops were owned by Mr. Reeve and, following a short interlude during the late 1960s/early 1970s when Sydney Wooder was the butcher, Harry's family, sons John and then David, carried on from 1975 to 1989.

It was then 'Courteney's', under Tim Courteney. Simon White then ran it for a few years after that and, 150 years on, remarkably it was still functioning as a butchers

In more recent years butchery has given way to modern-day dining.

'April the 13<sup>th</sup>' was termed "an international restaurant" and even featured in a film. 'Manolis' was a Greek taverna. Now we have 'Sanchos – Tex Mex' serving the best in Mexican cuisine.

It is good to know that after all these years and, despite that terrible fire, this part of ancient 'Nottingham's' is entering yet another new era serving locals and visitors alike – and in memory of all those butchers past, they still have meat on the menu!

## Did you know?

If you liked your food, you would not have liked Edward III's Sumptuary Act passed in 1336, which prohibited more than two courses at a meal, and three on a feast day.

The 1776 Adulteration of Tea Act decreed that if someone was caught with more than six pounds of "sloe leaves, or the leaves of ash, elder or any other tree" they had to prove that they had gathered the leaves themselves with consent from the tree's owners and that they were not going to be used in the making of imitation tea. The penalty was a £5 fine or up to a year in jail.

A law of 1585 made it illegal for women to "cause a nuisance with abusive or argumentative language". A woman guilty of scolding had to wear a scold's bridle, or metal cage, enclosing her head – a punishment only abolished by the Criminal Law Act of 1967.

## **When 'The best oysters in England' came from off the Dengie shore**

Boats have always played a major role in the life of Burnham, both working and playing. The early economy was built on fishing - particularly the cultivation of oysters - boatbuilding and the trades which go with it such as sailmaking.

Oysters have been cultivated on the Essex coast since Roman times, with serious cultivation from the 11th century onwards. Writing in 1594, John Norden said "*the best oysters in England*" came from "*the shore which lies between St Peter's Chapel (Bradwell-on-Sea) and Crouch Creeks the breadth of the Dengie Hundred through which on the very shore was erected a wall for the preservation of the land.*"

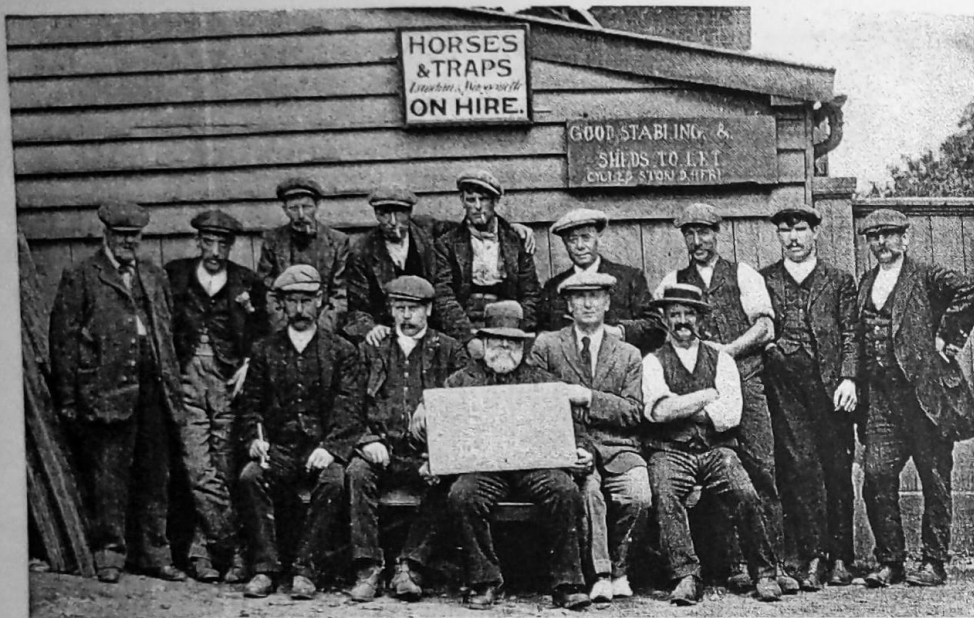
Daniel Defoe reckoned the best came from waters close to the mouth of the Blackwater estuary. Writing in the early years of the 18th century, in 'A tour through the whole island of Great Britain', he said: "*On this shore are taken the best and nicest, though not the largest, oysters in England.*" He noted that fishing was also good for soles "*which they take sometimes exceeding large*", codling, whiting, turbot and flounders.

The rights to the Crouch oyster fishery in the middle ages remained with the Manor of Burnham, which meant initially the Fitzwalter family and later the Mildmays.

The industry provided a considerable amount of employment; in 1830 it was reported that more than 200 boats and 500 men and boys were engaged in oyster fishery on and around the Crouch, producing more than 20,000 bushels (in the region of 250 tons) of oysters a year, sent to London, Hamburg, Bremen, Holland, France and Flanders.

Stealing eight bushels of oysters from an oyster bed in the Crouch cost Joseph Burrels and James Knight dear when they appeared at Essex Assizes in March, 1817: Burrels was transported for two years and Knight for seven.

**Kelvin Brown**



**Members of the Maldon Borough Arms RHC pictured outside the Wantz Road pub in 1928. But what did RHC mean? Presumably it was a club. If you know, please tell the editor!**

## Did you know?

The last windmills in Essex were built in 1877 to replace post mills blown over in a gale - a tower mill at White Roding and smock mill at Hawkspur Green, LittleBardfield. In that year there were around 200 working mills in Essex, with a number of local ones including the mill at Oxley Green, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, which was last used in 1914. Windmills could not compete in the 20th century with power-driven roller mills and the easier communications which meant communities did not have to rely on locally produced flour.

When Blue Mills at Wickham Bishops stopped milling in 1895, the man who bought it ran a dynamo off the wheel to produce his own electricity to light his house next door. Although called 'Mills' it was really only one mill but with two water-driven mill wheels, which was unusual.

# Maldon Museum statistics for period April 2010 to March 2011

## Number of ticketed visitors during advertised opening hours

Adults 2020 (1915)  
Children 336 (384)  
Total 2356 (2299)

Figures obtained by review of numbered tickets. These numbers include 197 (209) adults and 35 (22) children admitted without payment during the Heritage Open Days in September

## Number of visits by members of museum association and volunteer stewards – figures obtained from diary entries

606 (590)

## Number of visits by members of the public

2356+606 = 2962 (2889)

## Enquiries to Museum by telephone 44 (36) email 25 (25) post 2 (3)

Total 71 (64)

## E-enquiries to website 32 (20)

## Number of schoolchildren attending in organised groups outside advertised hours 129 (146)

## Number of adults attending in organised groups outside advertised hours 99 (93)

## Presentations by museum workers to an audience off-site

Children 180 Adults 35 (69)

## Number of volunteers involved in running the Museum 2010-2011

38 (40)

*Figures within brackets are those for period April 2009 to March 2010*

# Birds by the waggon-load from Blackwater's duck decoys

By Kelvin Brown

The wildfowl that visit or live on the Blackwater have helped many poor families survive through hard times in the past.

Birds have been shot here to feed large families since time immemorial, and there were also once 14 duck decoys along the banks of the river, including Grange Decoy at Tillingham, Glebeland, Marsh House, East Hall and West Wick at Bradwell, one each at Ramsey Island, Steeple and Latchingdon, two at Goldhanger and three or four at Tollesbury.

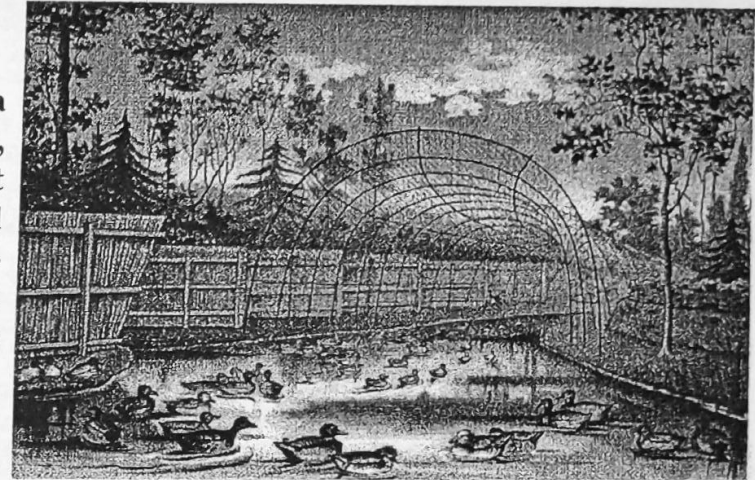
'*The Birds of Essex*', by Miller Christie, published in 1890, describes the method of working decoy ponds: the pond was octopus-shaped, with about six

arms or pipes eight yards wide at the pond end, narrowing to half a yard and covered by tarred netting stretched on wooden hoops. Screens of reed hid the decoyman from the birds.

As the birds moved only into the wind, the decoyman used only those pipes from which direction the wind was blowing, and to prevent the birds scenting his presence held a piece of lighted turf to his mouth.

He threw food over the screen to tame ducks at the entrance to the pipe. Wild ducks then

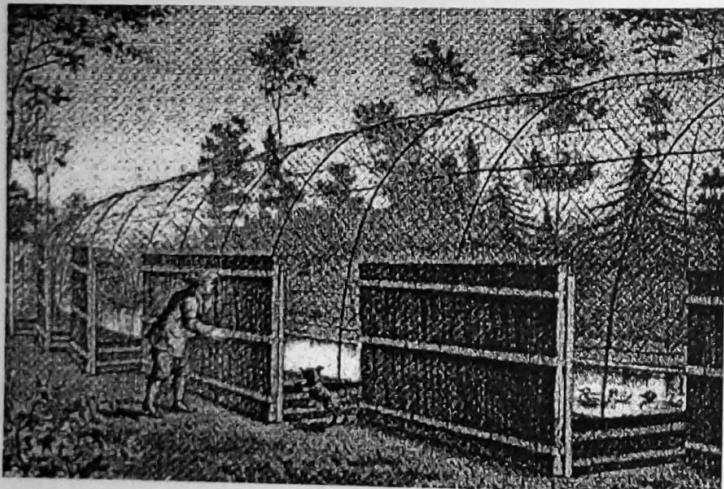
Entrance to a decoy pipe, with dog at work and wildfowl following him up the pipe



joined the tame ducks for a feed and were enticed up the pipe with more food. The decoyman then scared those wild birds to the inner end of the pipe, where they were caught and killed. He then used a terrier to lure more inquisitive ducks up the pipe. Pochards, however, needed a different catching method because, when startled, they dived underwater and then flew into the air; the solution was a series of pole-mounted nets which could be activated by a rope to spring upwards and catch the pochards, which were also known as dunbirds.

A man called Folkard, writing in 1875, said: "On one or two occasions within present memory the capture of pochards or dunbirds as they are locally called, has been so great at one drop or pull of the net that a waggon and four horses were required to remove them."

Grange Decoy apparently averaged an annual haul of 1,500 to 2,000 birds while, in 1799, Glebeland Decoy was responsible for 10,000 head of wigeon, teal and other ducks; the decoy was owned then by the Rev Henry Bate Dudley of



Decoyman enticing wild ducks up the pipe by use of a dog

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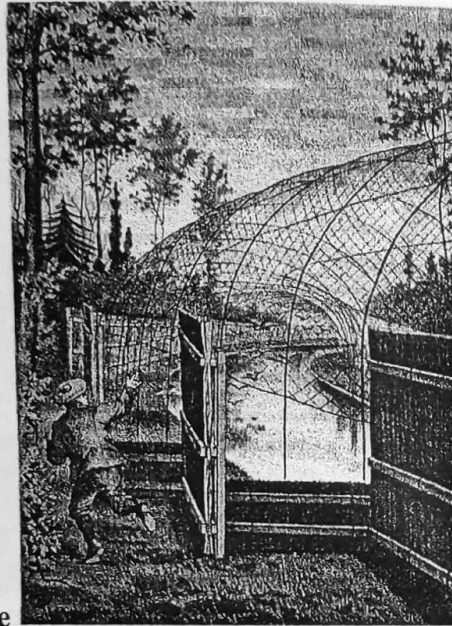
## From previous page

Bradwell Lodge.

Steeple Decoy beside the Blackwater was responsible for more than 7,000 birds - mostly widgeon - in both 1714 and 1715 but the numbers caught gradually dropped until 1726 when fewer than 700 were caught; in those 13 years the amount raised by the sale of wild-fowl averaged £102.

At least three flourishing decoys still existed around the Blackwater estuary towards the end of the 19th century.

Decoyman driving wild duck up the pipe



## Clampdown on vagrancy in 1815

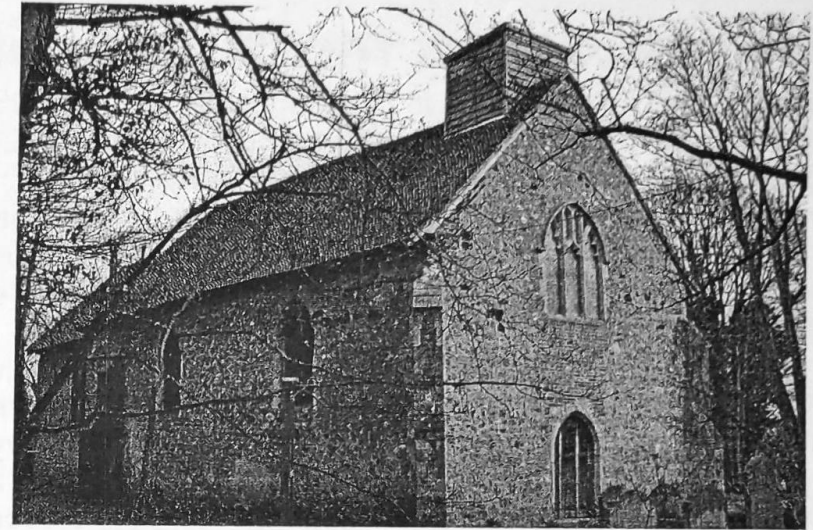
By an Act of 1872 and the establishing of the County Police, the parish constable, whose duties encompassed everything from collaring vagabonds to collecting the window tax and taking men to be sworn as soldiers, was no longer necessary.

Back in 1815, as a result of "a meeting of the magistrates acting for the Hundred of Dengie in the county of Essex, held at the King's Head Inn, in Maldon, on Saturday the 14th day of February, 1814" an order was issued to the constables:

"It is resolved that immediate directions be issued to the Constables and other parish officers within the said Hundred, to be strict and vigilant in apprehending and bringing to Justice all persons who shall be found committing an offence against the Vagrant Act, as the Magistrates are convinced that Vagrancy is of late become a very serious and increasing evil, tending greatly to the augmentation of the poor rates by casual poor and often resorted to as affording means and opportunities for the more easy commission of other offences and greater crimes.

"All common beggars, gipsies, and othe persons wandering abroad and lodging in ale-houses, barns, out-houses or in the open air, refusing or not being able to give a good account of themselves, are considered as Rogues and Vagabonds, and every constable or other person, who shall apprehend such offenders, are upon their conviction before a Magistrate, entitled to a reward of Ten Shillings."

## Maldon's Historic Churches



### St Peter's, Wickham Bishops

Declared redundant in 1970, restored in 1996, with further conservation work a decade later, 11th century St Peter's Church at Wickham Bishops is a hidden gem tucked away among trees at the end of a track that goes over the former Maldon to Witham railway line.

The church was taken into the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches in 1975 and since its restoration has been used as a studio by stained glass artist Benjamin Finn, whose work includes new stained glass for churches and other buildings, along with repair and restoration.

At the time of the Domesday Survey the manor of Wickham Bishops belonged to the Bishops of London, and it is thought that St Peter's was built as a private chapel for the bishops.

'Arthur Mee's Essex', published in 1942, says of the little church "The Normans built it, using Roman bricks for the corners of the chancel and Roman tiles for a doorway. The doorway has been replaced with a medieval brick porch, and there is still hanging in it a door 500 years old".

The first restoration work was carried out in the 1850s, but St Peter's appears to have been little used after that because a new church, St Bartholomew's, was built in the village. The font, holy water stoup and parish chest were moved to the new church, but the original font has now been returned to St Peter's.



## S.L.Bensusan - a prolific author who recorded marshland life

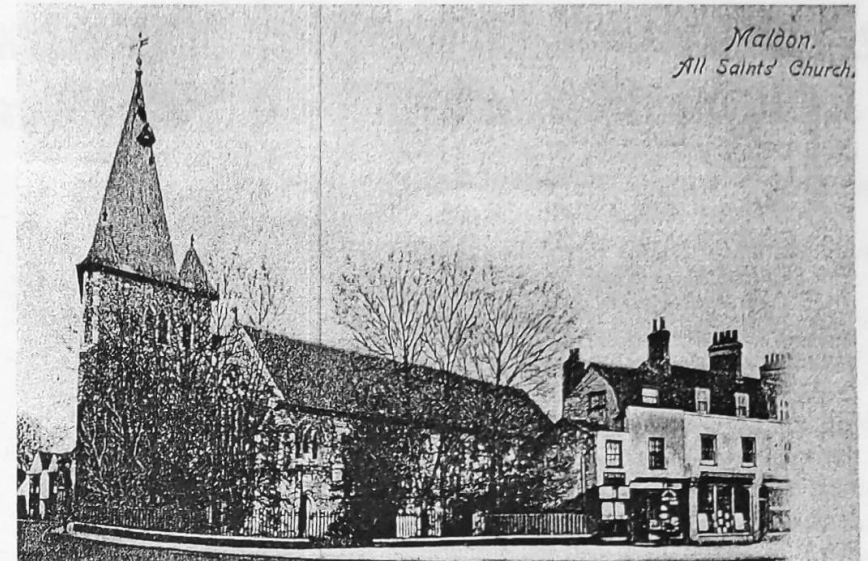
Asheldham was first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086 as Haintunic, but the area was inhabited for many years before that by the Saxons, who used Iron Age earthworks to build a fort, and left behind pottery, an axe and knife as evidence of their habitation. During gravel digging at Asheldham Camp, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon remains, chiefly pottery, were found, along with some fragments of Roman pottery.

The village has few other claims to fame, although it did give its name to the Royal Navy minesweeper HMS Asheldham. Among its notable residents was the author and journalist Samuel Levy Bensusan, who lived in the village for a while in the early years of the 20th century, before moving to Mote Cottage on the road between St Lawrence and Bradwell.

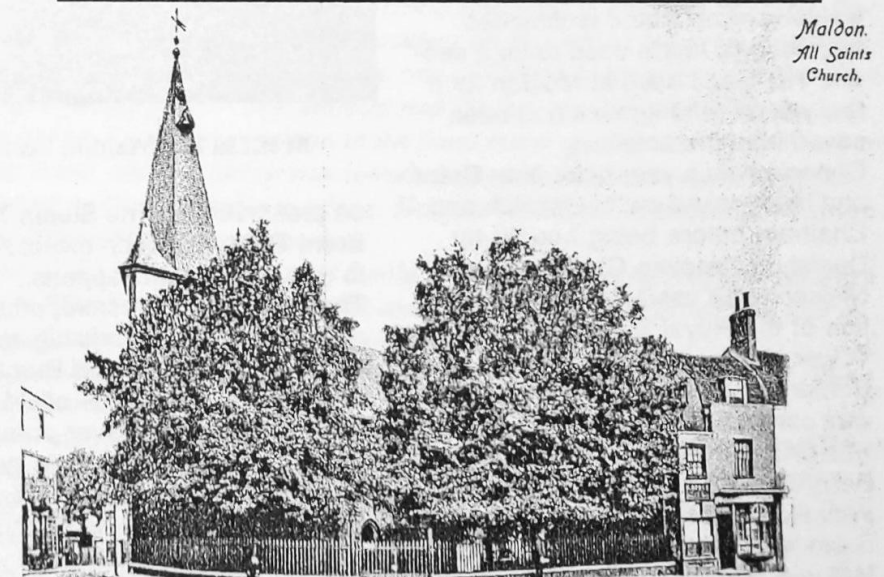
Born into an orthodox Jewish family in Dulwich in 1872, Bensusan came to Essex, it is said, on doctor's orders to get some bracing air after an illness. He was editor of the Jewish World and had been music critic for the Illustrated London News, The Sketch and Vanity Fair, and had written books about exotic places he had visited. He loved the area and spent his time writing books including many of short stories based on the people he had got to know in the villages round about. His stories are full of characters like Ephraim the carter, who was also an elder of the Peculiar People, and the gossiping Mrs Wospottle.

In its review of Bensusan's *'A Marshland Omnibus'* in 1954, the Essex County Standard commented that he had written 60 books, together with many hundreds of short stories, essays and talks, and said: *"The way of life described in his writing is, as he recognises, much changed in Marshland nowadays, though the underlying motives, the essential backgrounds and the eternal rhythms are possibly less altered than we sometimes fear."*

Bensusan eventually moved away to north west Essex before buying a cottage at Langham on the Essex-Suffolk border, where he wrote *'Back of Beyond'* about his life there. He died in 1958.



All Saints' Church in summer and winter, around the end of the 19th century. The street scene has changed considerably since then, with the shops gone and the town's war memorial prominent in front of the church since 1921.



## Brent Trust to keep an important piece of maritime history alive

One of Maldon's most unusual vessels, sitting in a mud berth just outside Cook's barge yard, is Brent, the last steam tug to work in London's enclosed docks system.

Built in Sunderland in 1945 for the Ministry of War Transport as TID 159 (meaning Tug Inshore Defence, and not Towing In Dock as many people think) she was the very last of 182 to be built, and went to work for the Port of London Authority to replace war-time losses. The 65-foot Brent was saved in 1971 from the shipbreakers and brought to Maldon by Ron and Janet Hall.

TID-types were one of the first classes of vessel built in the UK using all-welded prefabricated techniques. Interestingly, there used to be a second TID-type based at Maldon for a few years – and again it had been saved from the breakers.

Chrianie was a year older than Brent and had worked out of Harwich and Chatham before being bought by Danish contractors Christiani and Nielsen to be used in the construction of the Royal Sovereign Light Tower off the coast of Sussex. Construction of the 36 metre tower was completed in 1971 and Chrianie was brought to Maldon in 1973 by Barry Pearce.

With Ron Hall's death Brent's future could have been uncertain, but Mrs Hall was determined that this important piece of maritime history should



Brent in her Maldon berth

be preserved, so The Steam Tug Brent Trust has been established to ensure that that happens. The trust aims to "restore, preserve and display" the historic tug and wants, eventually, to sail Brent in UK waters and further afield "wherever and whenever possible." The current objective is to get Brent into a seaworthy condition to take part in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant in June next year. For more information, go to [steamtugbrent.org](http://steamtugbrent.org)

## A short-lived local newspaper - and memories of another's untimely end

The Maldon Borough Messenger survived for just 54 monthly issues from 1958 to 1962 - despite appearing to have a reasonable amount of advertising revenue.

In the last issue, a man who had left Maldon 51 years earlier - and who now lived in retirement in Hertfordshire in a house nostalgically named 'Beeleigh' - shared his memories of life in Maldon in late Victorian and Edwardian times.

He wrote: *Dr Reynolds-Brown, who followed the Drs Scott, was the first person in the town to have a motor car. As far as I remember he seemed to spend as much time trying to make it go as he did visiting his patients. One of my earliest memories is of being taken as a child to see the fire which destroyed all the shops from the old Public Hall down to Archer's (now Co-op) at the top of Market Hill. I can still recollect seeing the paint on the old Post Office (now Spurgeon's offices etc) peeling off with the heat and the array of fire engines outside the Moot Hall.*

*Another recollection is of the Essex Agricultural Show being held on the old football field in Spital Road; all I can recall now is a brick-making machine and Barker's amusement fair in which a contraption called a roly-poly figured. I think there was a serious accident on this which led to its abolition. It might be interesting to recall that one of Richard Poole's employees started up a weekly paper, 'The Maldon and Heybridge Gazette'. With the help of a lad he did the composition in the front room of his house in Crown (now Butt) Lane, and the forme was wheeled on a sack barrow to Poole's for printing on their cylinder machine. He was Mr Plater. Unfortunately his venture did not turn out a success.*

*Some of the other employees of Poole's who were his contemporaries were Jessie Stamford, Charlie Pinyoun and Tom Woolard. This last one had a magnificent bass voice and sang in All Saints' choir.*

*My first school was the infant school of St Mary's in the Mill Road. The headmistress was Miss Flambe.*

*Whilst attended there, the construction of the Marine Promenade and Recreation Ground was started, and it gave us kiddies considerable delight to watch the men at work or eating sandwiches on the post and rail fence which then flanked Mill Road. Sometimes they were accompanied by big horned black cattle which E.A. Fitch of Brick House Farm used to graze on these fields and marshes.*

# TIMES PAST

The historic events of 1911 started with the siege of Sidney Street, in Stepney, when 200 police and a detachment of Scots Guards laid siege to a house where anarchists who had shot and killed police officers the previous month, were hiding.



## 1911

It was a Census year, just like this one, and the Census revealed that one in every seven employed people was a domestic servant.

**And also just like this year, Westminster Abbey was the scene of a major royal occasion. In 1911 it was the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, the former Princess May of Teck. To celebrate, Britain staged the Festival of Empire at the Crystal Palace, which had been originally erected in Hyde Park, London, to house the Great Exhibition in 1851. It was moved in 1854 to a park in Penge Common, next to affluent Sydenham Hill, and was there until destroyed by fire in 1936.**

The future Edward VIII was invested as Prince of Wales at Carnarvon Castle and, in December, George and Mary were crowned as Emperor and Empress of India, in New Delhi.

**A severe heatwave and drought between July and September saw UK temperatures hitting 98F (36.7F).**

The *RMS Titanic*, the largest passenger steamship in the world, was launched at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast. The White Star Line ship was designed to compete with the rival Cunard Line's *Lusitania* and *Mauritania*. But the following year, just eleven months after her launch, the *Titanic* hit an iceberg in mid-Atlantic on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York and sank with the loss of 1,517 lives.

**The first Model T Ford produced outside the United States rolled off the production line in October - not in Dagenham but Manchester, in a converted tram works.**

In December, Norwegian Captain Raold Amundsen became the first man to reach the South Pole.



## ST. CEDD'S CHATLINE

By Liz Willsher

After a most severe winter, we have been basking in the unusual warmth of late March and April. Now into May the gardeners and farmers are worrying about the lack of rain for the crops.

At St Cedd's our time has been split between the continuing task of getting to grips with the store, and preparing the new museum displays for the opening, which was on 2 April this year.

The principal new display features the penny farthing bicycle and two Edwardian cyclists proudly sporting the fashionable cycling gear of the day. We have named our mannequins Cecil and Daisy for this season. Cecil's three piece suit of "ginger" tweed was particularly difficult to get onto his rigid frame, but with much pulling and pushing and attacks of the giggles, we managed it. Please come along to see the display! Among the items dealt with recently by the accessions team of Judy Betteridge, Betty Chittenden and myself, were three very well-travelled posters donated by Maldon museum in Victoria, Australia. They relate to celebrations in Maldon, Essex, after the coronation of Edward VII in June 1902. I expect their recent voyage was considerably faster than the original one. Unfortunately they are in rather delicate condition, so probably not suitable for display.

We have also received some photographs and information on some of the fire appliances used by the Maldon Fire Brigade over the years. These photos were kindly sent to us by Grays Fire Museum. They are now framed and can be seen near our magnificent engine in the museum.

I have recently taken photographs of the soon to be demolished old Shrimp Brand brewery building at Fullbridge, after the devastating fire earlier this year. The shrimp logo, made of moulded brickwork, will hopefully be rescued and saved to be incorporated into the new development on the site. It is sad to see the demise of this interesting building.

During our forays into the far reaches of the store at St Cedd's we have found some treasures and also some "whatever is this?" objects. Some of both categories were never accessed, so we have presented Betty with a regular stream of items to enter into the register.

Here's hoping that the good weather will encourage visitors to the bright and shiny museum - thanks to Christine Steel for her restoration skills with the dullest of metals. We have had some great compliments both verbally and in the visitors book. Please come and visit - don't forget that members have free entry, and bring friends and family.

Hope to see you at the museum soon!

# A pint of Shrimp Brand, please

The fire at Fullbridge earlier this year, which gutted Sil-Die's building, brought back memories for many of the building's former life as a brewery depot, first for Russell's of Gravesend and later Trumans.

When the depot was built in 1924 it had Russell's shrimp trademark built into the brickwork above two doorways; the depot served local pubs including Russell's White Lion at the bottom of Market Hill and the Half Moon at Heybridge, pictured below.

In 'Here's Good Luck to the Pint Pot', Ken Stubbings wrote: "Their mode of transport from Gravesend to their depot at Fullbridge was somewhat unique, the barrels being brought round the coast by a Thames barge which bore an enormous shrimp on its mains'l."

During his research for the book, the earliest reference Ken could find to a Maldon brewer was to Thomas Petchie who "was able to brew a large quantity of beer following the chance mooring of a Flemish coaster full of hops" in 1569.

He also found records of brewing in the seventeenth century, including reference to a large brick malting house sited on the Causeway side of Fullbridge before 1673.

Kelly's Directory of 1832 contains an entry for Busbridge & Rickard, Brewers, Maldon. Other past Maldon breweries included the Wantz Brewing Company, which was next to the Borough Arms and appears to have been in business until 1929, and presumably carried on brewing until then.



## GRAY and SONS, BREWERS AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, MALDON BREWERY, MALDON.

### SPIRITS.

**Gin**—Fine Unsweetened.  
Booth's.

**Whiskies**—Irish.  
Irish, Special Blend.  
Scotch, Very Fine Old.

**Rum**—Finest Old Jamaica.

**Cordials**—Ginger Brandy.  
Orange Bitters.  
Peppermint.  
Cloves.

**Brandies**—Brandy.  
Superior French.

### ALES, PORTER & STOUT.

DESCRIPTION.	Bals. (86 gals.)	Kils. (18 gals.)	Fins. (9 gals.)	Fins. (4 gals.)
STOCK ALE:—XXXO	42	21	10 6	5 3
BITTER ALE:—B.A.	36	18	9 0	4 6
MILD ALES:—XXX	42	21	10 6	5 3
XX	36	18	9 0	4 6
STOUT - - -	48	24	12 0	6 0
PORTER - - -	36	18	9 0	4 6

*A Discount of 5 per cent. allowed for Cash on Delivery.*

### PRICE LIST OF SPIRITS & CORDIALS ON APPLICATION

The Gray family brewed in Gate Street, Maldon, from 1865 when Charles Gray bought the brewery from John Pitcairn, until it was sold at auction together with some adjacent properties, in 1954. This advertisement is from around 1910.

# Maldon District Museum Association

Registered Charity 301362

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**Vice Presidents - Mr L.F. Barrell**  
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Please note that the opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors, and not necessarily agreed by the Association.

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