

Camulos

Camulos.com was first launched as a website in February 1999. It was created to take advantage of the new internet age, and to present an alternative view of Colchester's fantastic heritage. Camulos has grown considerably in size since its inception, the webmaster constantly researching and adding pages, as time goes by.

The first webpages concerned the Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester, adding information that had been discovered since the book of that name was first published in 1999. Then followed pages associated with Colchester's archaeology, in particular, the 2000 Post Office dig in Head Street. In 2001, a series of pages were created to offer a 'virtual' heritage tour of Colchester. As of 2021, that site alone had received over a quarter of a million visits from all over the world.

Camulos now (2022) comprises web pages covering many Colchester subjects, as well as links to YouTube lectures and interviews with old Colcestrians.

Virtual Tour of Colchester – One of our oldest and most popular set of web pages, enabling virtual visitors to take a virtual stroll around the town, but from the comfort of their homes. The first part follows the standard route taken by the town's official tour guides – but with a lot more besides. The final part looks at points of interest that would not easily be attainable on foot, requiring perhaps a bus or taxi or bicycle.

Colchester Heroes – Mostly a listing of those who gave their lives for us in WW1 and WW2, where they are buried, with biographies and pictures, where possible. There is scope to add a lot more information to this site, as research is done by the families of the fallen. Individual Rolls of the Fallen are shown from a variety of Colchester locations.

Colchester's Military Heritage – A study of Colchester's proud military past, starting with Romans and working through to more recent times, with particular emphasis on the Victorian garrison construction and WW1 period postcard images.

Camulodunum – A look around what we know today as Gosbecks Archaeological Park, where much of Colchester's known history began over 2000 years ago. With much reference to our Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman Age periods.

Colchester Castle – a dedicated virtual guided tour both inside and outside of the Norman castle, with images dating from before the 2015 changes.

Colchester Images – Mostly postcard images, but other images ranging from old photographs, to hand drawn sketches and works of art. We have postcard images from the Edwardian period, when we had trams, not buses, and the car was the domain of the wealthier classes. We see Colchester as it used to be, before so many of our old buildings were destroyed and the motor car became king.

The Colchester Roman Trail – Another virtual guided tour that takes a modern day look at what is to be seen today from the Roman period, including the remarkable Roman Circus discovered in 2004.

The Camulos Video Archive – Over the years, Camulos has been making video recordings of various heritage activities and placing them on YouTube, mostly associated with Remembrance Day, military commemoration events, Poppy Appeal ceremonies, heritage lectures concerning our Iron Age and Roman history, our pubs, our Sewers, Brewers and Whores. Then we have many videos of our festival events, life stories from Colchester people (many now deceased), etc.

Colchester Town Wall – Another virtual guided tour, taking a walk around our amazing Roman walls, discussing the various aspects of its construction, its features, its gates, its depredations. More recently enhanced by pictures of the various information boards installed by the Friends of Colchester Wall.

Colchester's Cemetery – Opened by the Victorians, many of the great and good of Colchester are buried here, their monuments and inscriptions providing us with a fascinating insight into a past era. With the later addition of the WW1 military grave site and expansions as more and more burials and cremations took place, there is a wealth of interest to be found here.

Colchester's Railway – The railway arrived in Colchester in 1843 and this web page tells the story of its development, which included the building of Hythe and St Botolphs stations, with many photographs from the 1930s and 40s and the eventual passing of the steam age to electric and diesel.

Colchester Men at Trafalgar – Inspired by local historian, Mrs Joan Soole (deceased), this web page looks at the 27 sailors of Colchester that are known to have taken part in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

The Colchester Oyster Feast – The Oyster feast has become an internationally famous event, taking its origins from *ostrea edulis*, the Colchester Native oyster that was part of the staple diet of Colcestrians way back into the Roman period and beyond that. We look at the traditions and fun that has evolved from it.

Colchester Heritage Leaflets – This web page enables potential visitors to download and print heritage information to assist them when they visit our town. The Tourist Office do not offer such information to visitors, preferring to direct them to our wonderful castle. There is, of course, so much more to see than just our wonderful castle. These leaflets have been rejected by the council, in case of any doubt.

The Camilla Project – Camilla (and her husband) was (were) unceremoniously dug up in the 1970s, to make way for our new Police Station on Southway. She had rested in peace for some 1700 or so years. Her bones were laid out in the Castle museum for many years and an expert was called in to create a sculpture of her head to show how she might once have looked when she was alive. Her mitochondrial DNA can be extracted and we have created a DNA project to compare her DNA with that of Colcestrians alive today.

Colchester Nostalgia – A series of newspaper articles covering various Colchester heritage subjects.

The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester – An electronic version of the book of that name, first published in 1995, but revised several times; the final edition in 2015 and now out of print. It looks at the history of all of the pubs that have been known to exist in the town, Colchester's breweries - and many pubs from the North East Essex area.

Colchester's Roman Circus – First discovered in 2004, we look at those early days following the discovery of this unique (to Britain) second century Roman circus, and leading on to pointing enquirers and visitors to the superb Roman Circus House website, to get an up to date view of what is currently happening.

Colchester's Street Art – Colchester is brimming with artistic talent and this web page gives the web visitor an opportunity to see what we have to offer in terms of street art, be it graffiti, statues, and other art forms that we can be rightly proud of.

Britannia Cars – Colchester was once a car manufacturing hub. It didn't last long, but this web page tells you a little of what we once produced. Of course, this was only a small part of the engineering excellence that Colchester has put its name to, the likes of Paxmans, Woods, Colchester Lathe, etc. to name but a few.

One day the creator of Camulos will die, and thus, so will camulos.com.

Can it be preserved for future generations? Is it worthy of preservation?