

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

*'With what feelings of pleasure the traveller's thoughts turn to the inns of bygone days! Sweet remembrance is awakened of the good fellowship, conviviality, genial hospitality, and comfort therein, particularly of those that were of good repute.'*

This quotation was taken from an article in a Colchester newspaper, written by a local man, Joseph Phillips, around 100 years ago. Things have changed considerably since those 'bygone days'.

The inn, or tavern, or the modern day pub, has always been a focal point for people to meet their friends and to enjoy a drink in amiable surroundings. It was whilst sitting in just such a favoured hostelry, listening to an old'un recalling earlier days, that I got an interest in his claim that 'when I were a lad, you couldn't have a half pint of beer in each pub from the Hythe to St. Botolph's corner and still be able to walk.' Being of an enquiring nature, I delved into the matter - and kept delving.

My introduction to pub life came from my old dad, a man who, I believed as a boy, worked long hours. He had always liked a pint or two of a Sunday lunchtime but I had not realised until I started work at the same company as him that he liked a pint or two of a Monday, a Tuesday, a Wednesday, etc. As I had a car and he did not, I took us to and from work, and I soon got into the swing of things with a drink on our way home from work. But then that was in the old days, before my sister married a copper and before the dreaded breathalyser made its indelible impact on the licensed trade.

Collected together here are all manner of snippets of information that have revealed themselves to me over the past twenty or so years. Chance remarks about the old days from the old'uns have been faithfully recorded for posterity - often leading to research on the subject. All sorts of published works on Colchester's history have been scrutinised, as have licensing records, maps, deeds, newspapers, census entries, trade directories, etc. Photographs have been the most difficult to find and I have made my own up-to-date collection, already of historic value with the passing of pubs such as the Piccolo Padre, the Prince of Wales, the Ship, the Six Bells, Vito's, the Traveller's Friend, the Rising Sun, Brights, the Bell, the Cambridge, Clarendon, Maypole, etc. - and probably a few more by the time you read this.

I am no academic, being an engineer with a technical background. As a consequence of this, and perhaps from a neglect of English subjects at school, any literary flair that you come across here will probably have come from the work of others, and especially from the extensive and thorough research of the late Mr Gerald Owen Rickword, whom I regret I never met, but who wrote many articles from the 1920s through to the 1960s. His articles must be preserved for future generations; too important to be forgotten. This book therefore shows his work to generations of people who missed it the first time around.

My interest in genealogy finds parallels with the subject of this book and the techniques used in family history research. Hunting for details about an errant ancestor is not so different to hunting for clues as to the location of a long forgotten pub. As with family history, it tends to be only those who break the law, or otherwise make their actions worthy of note, that get recorded. The majority were conducted well and therefore passed-by unrecorded.

Pub life is often associated with the more rascally end of the social scale, there being more than a few rapsallions recorded in the following pages. But also, there are stories of long forgotten events that were associated with the more than 300 licensed premises that have been discovered as having existed in the town over the centuries; the earliest references coming from the 15th century. Pubs, of a sort, must have been in existence in the times of the Roman occupation - and perhaps even before that, since beer production is known to be that old. Here, in this book, are to be found ghost stories, love stories, villains, murderers and suicides, joyful, strange and plainly barbaric leisure pursuits, stories of worthy townsfolk and those who, 'under the influence' (mainly men), act the fool. There are also many mysteries that I hope may one day be answered.

People go to pubs to meet their friends, to unwind, to relax; perhaps to enjoy pub games such as cards, darts, pool, quizzes, etc. They like to crack a few jokes and, nowadays, the latest innovation is to watch sport on satellite TV in the company of like minded friends. Of course, they also like to have a drink, some to excess. However, all in all, it is an enjoyable pastime and with so many different houses to choose from, there is usually one to suit individual

preferences, whatever they might be. Colchester has pubs to suit people of all ages; be it where live bands perform, or where music is played softly - or perhaps banned altogether; where the beer is a good price; where they can watch sport on television, etc. It has pubs that have become known as soldier's pubs, pubs you can take your dear old mum to - and those that you would not dream of taking your dear old mum to. Nowadays too, there are so many pubs now that offer an excellent food menu.

The development of Colchester as a garrison town has had an indelible impact on our public houses, being responsible for many being built for the use of soldiers and thus leading to the choice of names taken in many instances. Public houses have learned to adapt to the needs of the soldier who seeks entertainment in the town. When you consider that they are modern day warriors, there is generally a good relationship between soldier and civilian in the town - although there have been the occasional problems in the past.

This book covers, what was once, a neglected topic of our ancient town's local and social history. It puts into print a selection of the fascinating information that I have uncovered along the way. I hope that it gives you an insight into something of the history of our Colchester pubs - both past and present. I have tried to mention the source of my information wherever possible, without making the work a mass of references. I have also endeavoured to make it a light-hearted work as, surely, the whole subject of pubs is about people enjoying themselves.

This fifth edition is published in the year of the bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo, which sits well with Colchester's proud military heritage. As with previous editions, it has been reviewed and updated, following the inevitable discovery of additional material, and to keep up with the changes of pub names that all too frequently occur. Several hundred 'Grocer's apostrophes' have been removed - at long last! The main additions have been with new pictures that have come to light, also miscellaneous research additions that have occurred. Unfortunately I cannot identify the source of many of these photographs as they have come to me through the internet without provenance. But as most are over 70 years old, any copyright will have expired.

As pointed out in previous editions, this work is far from complete. A perfectionist would never have been able to write it; it is a never-ending story. The medieval period has not been studied in any great detail by me, and that will remain so for the time being. Whilst we may know the names of pubs from the medieval period, being able to pinpoint where they were, is quite another matter. This book will hopefully be revised and re-printed as time and demand dictates. This is a hobby of mine, the work of an amateur. I have made no profit from it, nor would I wish to. It is available for free on the internet. I have a business to run and family commitments to consider, and my spare time is therefore limited. I am pleased to know that this book has already become a 'standard' work; a reference book that will be found on bookshelves for many years to come. It is informative and serves to advertise an ongoing interest in the subject. No doubt, this book has already settled an argument or two at various pub bars. Hopefully, it will lead to some of you coming forward with yet more, hitherto unknown, old photographs, or by adding to the stories, or perhaps providing answers to some of the many mysteries that I have drawn attention to in the text.

But sadly, as we go to print, the way of life that this book attempts to record is fast becoming a thing of the past. Over the years, Colchester has steadily been losing its pubs (26 lost since this book was first published in 1995), as the drinking habits of the nation and our pub culture changes. So, despite the state of the pub industry today, I hope that you enjoy reading this latest edition of the book. So much of Colchester's proud history is connected with its inns, taverns and public houses and, I hope, I have captured some of the best bits of it here for you.

Jess Arthur Jephcott

February 2015

## Chapter 2

### This Pub Business!

#### What is a Pub?

The word pub is a short form of 'public house', a more formalised term, which came about during the last century alongside the lower ranking 'beerhouse'. These gradually replaced the 'inn', 'tavern' and 'alehouse' designations, although these names creep in and out of fashion according to the whim of the landlord.

In general, an inn was a place where a traveller could stop for food and drink and a bed for the night, these often being located in town centres or on coach routes. Geoffrey Chaucer, in the 14th century, wrote of his pilgrims assembling and dining at an inn in London. Up until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, the monks recognised the importance of hospitality to pilgrims and travellers, an increase in the number of inns taking place after this time. From time to time, evidence of excessive behaviour stirred the authorities to take action and, in 1604, an Act of Parliament was passed which recognised inns, taverns and alehouses as places for, 'the receipt, relief and lodging of wayfaring people travelling from place to place ... and not meant for the entertainment of lewd and idle people to spend and consume their money in lewd and drunken manner.'

Progress being what it was, and with a general improvement in technology and in the affluence of the traveller, came a need for a change in accommodation requirements. The railway took many travellers away from horse drawn transport, which resulted in many a roadside inn having to change its ways. Consequently, many inns became simple public houses; no longer relying on the income from overnight accommodation. Depending upon circumstances, others thrived and the word 'inn' virtually disappeared in favour of the French term 'hotel' - perhaps a suggestion of refinement.

There are various pubs in the town today which use 'hotel' as part of their name, but which do not offer overnight accommodation to travellers. This is an indication of their previous use. On the coming of the railway to Colchester in 1843, the enterprising landlord of the George in the High Street, ran a carriage between the station and his inn, to convey the rail passengers to his establishment. It was enterprise like this that caused the grandly built Victoria Hotel at the new North Station to close, later to become an asylum for the mentally ill. People wanted to get in to town, where the action was, not to be stuck in a hotel on the town's outskirts. The Globe Hotel in North Station Road was specially built for trade from the new railway, replacing a smaller tavern on the same site.

The tavern however, was a less grand place, perhaps a single room at the front of a dwelling, with the landlord usually having another trade to supplement his income and often with his wife running the business during the day. Its customers were more likely to have been working class people from the local area. The sale of ale, porter, stout or beer was the main business and it was a place where men could go, to get away from the wives and children, to relax with a pint and to share a yarn with their peers.

The Beerhouse Act of 1830 was introduced with the intention of curbing the consumption of spirits, especially gin, which was the scourge of many working class families in those times. The authorities felt that if the working classes must take a drink, then beer was preferable to gin. Both made you fall over (if you drank enough), but beer took longer to do it. Consequently, many private houses opened up as beer houses - but they were not allowed to sell wine or spirits.

The last Colchester beerhouse was granted its full licence as a public house in the 1950s. The perceived danger of the 'gin palace' was thus considered to be gone and therefore no longer a threat to the nation's way of life.

The latest major piece of government legislation affecting public houses, known as the Licensing Act 2003, came into force on 24th November 2005. Yet another indirect piece of legislation that our nanny state imposed on us was a ban on smoking in 2007. The implications were much feared in the pub industry and by the general public alike. Time will tell how well it worked.

### Types of Licensed Premises

The past few years have seen great changes in the licensing industry. Nowadays, it seems, just about anybody can open a licensed premises. The following descriptions of types of premises relate to the time when pubs were pubs; not bars!

A **free-house** is a term meaning that the pub is not tied to any particular brand of product, a handful in the town being privately owned as a freehold, i.e. not by a multi-national, pubco or brewery. It can usually buy and sell whatever beer it chooses and is usually the best place to get a pint of 'real' ale - but not always! In some cases a freehold is purchased with the financial help of a brewer, who then applies a wet-tie in return. Also, a free-house does not necessarily mean that the landlord owns the freehold of the premises. It can be confusing for the customer, although the usual sign of a free-house that is free of tie is that its beer is cheaper than houses that are tied.

A **tied house** is one, which is usually owned by a **pubco** (a general term for a large business enterprise that owns a number of pubs under tenant agreements, or as managed houses), a multi-national or brewery (or an agent of one of these) and is therefore tied to them in that the house must buy and sell the owner's products. However, with their owner's agreement, some tied houses can sell guest beers (provided they are bought from the owner of the house), often seen as an inducement to patronage by 'real ale drinkers'. The landlord usually, either holds a leasehold tenancy, or is a manager employed by the owner.

A **managed house** is one that is like the tied house but where the owner (usually controlled by a multi-national, a brewery or an agent) employs a manager to run the business on their behalf. The manager earns a salary, whereas a tenant's earnings are based upon a share of the profits.

A **bar** is an establishment in many ways like a pub but specialising in the sale of wine and food rather than beer and crisps. Bars are to be found in the town centre. They started out as wine bars and were generally the sort of place that was patronised by business people and where perhaps women were more likely to go, to avoid unwanted attention from the male of the species. Wine bars started to appear in the 1980s but soon gave way to what we know today as 'bars', 'café bars', 'bar cafés', etc. where (in the 2010s) anything goes.

**Fun pubs** and **theme pubs** are things of the 1980s and 90s, being terms for pubs that were built or modified to cater for young people, where they might offer the latest chart music with video screens, pin ball machines and the like. They are not terms that are used nowadays. They are more likely to be referred to as bars or just plain old pubs.

A **spit and sawdust pub** is a throw back from the old days when spittoons were provided for customers to spit into and sawdust to mop up the product from poor shots, spilt beer or blood from any fight which might have broken out. The phrase is still used, although these types of pub are few and far between nowadays. Spitting has almost entirely died out with the decline in 'baccy' chewing that produced the need to spit. People seem to swear instead now!

A **food pub, gastro-pub, bistro-pub, etc.** is just that. A few of our pubs have given up the ghost and become places to eat rather than in which to drink. But most are places where you can still enjoy a drink and have a meal if you want. This has mainly happened to old pubs in the country, rather than in the town. It's just another sign of the times!

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### Types of Licences and Licensees

Again, the past few years have seen great changes in the way licences are granted. The following descriptions of types of licenses relate to the time before the Licensing Act of 2003 came into being. Before 2005 (when the act came into effect), there were different types of licences. The main one, which affects pubs, was the full licence, which allowed a publican to sell beer, wine and spirits, normally for consumption on or off the premises.

An 'on' licence was one, which meant that drinks sold could only be consumed on the premises. An 'off' licence was one that meant that drinks sold could only be consumed off the premises. In the case of a public house, their licence was an 'on' licence but they often had an 'off' licence also.

Beer houses had 'on' licences only, whereas beer shops had 'off' licences. One was therefore a licensed house where customers could go to drink, but the other only sold beer for drinking off the premises. The later 'Off-Licence', was a premises that could only sell alcoholic drinks for consumption off the premises and was a progression from the old beer shops in that they could also sell wine and spirits. (A list of the town's beer houses is shown at the end of this chapter.) The 'offy' is almost a thing of the past now, with just about anybody with a shop being able to sell alcohol.

The licensing authorities also granted variations to a licence such as extended hours on market days or special occasions, licences for music, gaming machine licences, etc. The Licensing Act of 2003 changed all that and we shall leave further comment on its impact to the historians of the future.

The landlord and landlady are terms that have been used for many years with reference to the licence holder (or licensee) and his or her spouse or partner. Since 2005, the official term has been DPS, denoting the designated premises supervisor.

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### The Landlord – A Romantic View!

The landlord is an interesting personality. Why would anybody want to work the hours that he does and to put up with listening to the moans and groans of sometimes unappreciative customers who treat his house as if it were their own?

From a customer's perspective, there are good landlords and there are bad landlords. People go to a pub for entertainment reasons, often to meet their friends, but generally to relax in comfortable surroundings. The last thing that they want is to be greeted with a growl from a 'miserable old bugger' behind the bar. It is a general feeling that the best pubs are those where the landlord offers a friendly welcome and who takes a keen interest in their customer's well being. There is an entertainment business and the bar is their stage.

A good landlord is probably one of the best students of human behaviour. He needs to be able to understand body language, to assess the mood of his customers at a glance. Without the need to ask, he knows who would appreciate a friendly chat, and who wants to be left alone. He can detect discord between a couple, even before the pair of them is aware of any disharmony. He can tell, by the way a customer enters the pub and walks to the bar, whether they have had a good or a bad day. He tends to know what his customers are feeling and can usually predict their behaviour. More importantly, he knows how to use the information to make his customers feel welcome, whether a laugh and a joke would be appropriate or whether a listening ear is required with sympathetic nods at suitable moments. He knows the exact moment to intervene in an argument or how best to defuse any tensions which might arise.

The landlord often seems to act as a community leader, whether it be in offering advice, arbitrating in a dispute, or helping to solve problems at work or home. Never mind if he has his own problems, his customers will often look to him for help. However, the respect and status of a good landlord has to be earned, by acquiring a reputation for fairness, firmness and decisiveness.

If he does not have the trust and respect of his customers, he can soon be in trouble. This is because the landlord has, on occasions, to act as a law enforcer. He cannot allow drunkenness, underage drinking, disorderly conduct or out of hours drinking in his pub. He does not have the authority enjoyed by a policeman, but must act as one nevertheless.

And then, he often organises charity events, special functions or celebrations, musical evenings, sports, entertainment and games. A good landlord will readily acknowledge that being a publican is a way of life, it being his work and his social life, all rolled into one. His customers become friends and he is involved with their lives to a large degree.

One of the most colourful landlords written about in this book is 'Duke' Hamilton who once kept the White Hart in High Street. Then there were James Green of the Sea Horse and Daniel Manning of the King's Head - but of course, there are so many notable characters in action today. May history record them all one day!

(Nowadays of course, we no longer have landlords in the original sense of the word. We have DPSs. Read on!)

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### Modern Trends

In the 'olden days,' it seems as if a landlord would make the running of his house his life-long occupation. Time and time again, the records show that, after his demise, his widow took over the running of the business until she too expired. They seemed to have enjoyed their work, in a world that was very different to how we live today.

Almost exclusively, glasses and mugs made of glass are used to drink from now, whereas earthenware or pewter tankards would once have been the norm. Beer is now dispensed from aluminium barrels or kegs, usually from a cellar and under gas pressure or hand pumped, whereas in earlier days the barrel would have been propped up in or near to the bar area and beer tapped off directly from it.

The number of pubs in Colchester was at its peak around 1900, reflecting the comparative affluence of the ordinary working man, who had plenty of work and wages to spend. Since that time, the number has been considerably reduced, with wine bars, cafés, bars, fun pubs and the like, springing up to cater for the diverse and often fickle tastes of today's drinkers.

Nowadays, running a pub is not such a straightforward business as might be assumed it once was, especially if it is a tenancy. The tenant is often tied to a brewer's product, a big disadvantage when the customer wants to see a variety of

beers on sale. Also, the tenant's landlord demands ever increasing, and often crippling, rents. Now, business rates and the dreaded VAT have to be paid, stringent health and safety measures have to be adhered to. Whereas the landlord might once have had to watch out for the wrong sort of lady using his house, under-age customers and drug dealers now seem to be of more concern. The licensee can be prosecuted for allowing drunkenness, for selling drink or cigarettes to minors - he or she has been overwhelmed by bureaucracy.

In general, the customer has benefited, with an improvement in standards and services offered by the publican. Most pubs now offer, in addition to its main product, an extensive range of bar and/or restaurant food, darts and pool facilities, the latest selections in music, beer gardens and facilities for children, etc. However, the customer also has other pastimes to enjoy in his or her spare time. Where once they might have gone to the pub, now they have the threat of a driving ban if they use the car to travel to the pub, they have a greater choice of social activities, all of which have affected the licensed trade to a major extent.

The multi-billion pound deals that were being made in the late 1990s, made it difficult to accurately record the situation in this book. Locally, in 1999, a multi-million pound take-over of the Moreland Brewery in Abingdon was undertaken by Greene King to 'increase their portfolio of beers' - whatever that bit of fancy 'yuppy' jargon means. The target seems to have been the hugely popular beer known as 'Old Speckled Hen' and the elimination of a competitor. A short while later, the Ridley's brewery in Essex closed its doors when it too was bought out by Greene King.

Another sign of the times in recent times was with the appearance of large drinking establishments in the town centre, seemingly designed to sell as much alcoholic beverage as possible in the shortest space of time. The Playhouse, Yates Bar, etc. could hardly be described as pubs. They catered for hundreds of drinkers at a time. Together with many other drinking establishments in the town centre, they had to employ 'bouncers' at their doors to keep out the 'undesirables'. The 'doorman's' uniform was: bald head, microphone with earpiece and a black shiny jacket. To the punter who was looking for a quiet drink somewhere, their presence was a clear sign to keep well away. To the young drinkers looking for action, these houses were the place to be. There was a radio controlled warning system for publicans in the town to let them know what thuggery might be going on and whether it might be heading their way. Coupled with the closing of many public toilets and the installation of the town wide CCTV (close circuit television) surveillance system by the council, urinating in a public place was not to be recommended.

Over the past two decades, the humble drinker has become a very small pawn indeed in such a scheme of things, the profit from each pint and the high rents charged for the properties, filtering up to the 'fat-cats' at the top. Many have said that this signalled the end for the British pub as they once knew it.

In the last few years, a lot of changes have taken place. As might have been expected, a few of our pubs have closed their doors forever. A few have been acquired as freehouses. Perhaps the most interesting change has been to do with the beginnings of legislation in 2014 to regulate the pubco tie on many houses that are forced to pay above the market rate for their beer and the unreasonable terms of pubco rents. In 2015 there were seven major pubcos, and these included: Admiral Taverns Ltd, Enterprise Inns, Fuller Smith & Turner, Greene King, Marston's, Punch Pub Company, S&N Pub Enterprises and Young's. It is hoped that, one day, pubcos will be a thing of the past and all of our pubs can be run, free of any tie, able to compete on an equal footing with others. Time alone will tell as to how pubs will fare in future years!

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### Pub Names and their Signs

In 1393 King Richard II compelled landlords to erect signs outside their premises. The legislation stated that, 'Whosoever shall brew ale in the town with intention of selling it must hang out a sign, otherwise he shall forfeit his ale'. This was intended to enable better inspection of the quality of ale and the possibilities for taxation.

The first thing that is required for a pub is a name. What thoughts must have gone through owner's minds when considering what name to give to their house? They would have wanted to attract as much business as possible, bearing in mind the location in town and the likely types of customer that would be attracted. If it was close to the docks, a nautical name would probably be chosen as most of its customers would be sailors or dock workers. If near to soldiers, a name with military associations would be a better choice. If near to the centre of commerce, a neutral or patriotic theme. If near to travellers, a name to make them feel at ease. Depending upon the owner's own political or religious beliefs, might also have influenced the choice of a name. They would have to take care so as not to dissuade certain customers from using their services, by association with an ill chosen name.

In medieval times, few people could read or write and an elaborate sign would have been of little meaning to them. When arranging to meet someone, it would be normal to arrange to meet say 'at the sign of the Bear', where the sign would have been a simple picture or model of a bear, hanging from the building. The sign had to be simple to recognise, as there would have been many others displayed by the various other tradesmen in the area. It was not until



later times that signs became more sophisticated, sometimes combining two or more signs in one, when an innkeeper moved premises but wanted to retain his own identity whilst retaining the old - a kind of heraldry amongst publicans. An instance of this may have been the sign of the Crown and Anchor. Nowadays, the pub sign artist comes to the fore, with some very high quality, well-researched and interpretative signs hanging outside our pubs.

There have been more than 300 different names used by pubs in Colchester, many of which have been replaced or modified to give a change in image or to reflect a topical subject of the day. The true reason for choosing a name is a subject of great debate to 'barstool philosophers' and varied other 'experts'. Does anybody really know how the Goat and Boot got its name or why the Ship was renamed the Elephant and Castle? What victory did the name Victory recall? How can we discover why a pub became known by a particular name, unless that reason was written down at the time and has survived to this day for us to find? The story behind a name could have been a purely personal one, or one referring to an unusual occurrence, or an association with a local industry, or simply one that the owner liked the sound of and of which there was no other in Colchester.

The names of the Colchester pubs are discussed in this book, giving a possible explanation of the origin of the name. The author has consulted many scholarly works on the subject and has come to the conclusion that many of the reasons given are pure conjecture. We can draw on heraldry for an explanation of the Red Lion's sign, but can only guess at why this sign was chosen in the first place? In many instances, the artist who created the sign used his own initiative, which may lead to one overlooking the true reason for the original naming of the pub. A case in point is that of the Flying Fox's sign. It depicted a fox flying an aircraft - but the aircraft had not been invented when the pub first opened its doors to its eager customers. What therefore was the original flying fox and why was its name given to a pub?

There have been several names used over and over again in Colchester. The White Hart has been used consecutively for at least five different houses. As one closed, another started up. At one time there were two Ships on East Hill and one at Headgate. There were two Rose and Crowns at the same time and two Castles at the same time.

The problem with pub signs is that they weather and do not usually last very long, especially those that are painted. The exceptions are signs like those at the Cups or the Prettygate, which are of more robust construction. This book does not give illustrations of pub signs, as most of them are painted and therefore only a few years old. To appreciate the artist's skill of our modern day signs, coloured illustrations would be required and you would do just as well by making a visit to the pub itself - and having a drink while you were there. The only old signs that have survived and are on view are those of the King's Head, the Crown and the Whalebone, which were on display in the Social History Museum in Trinity Street (until it was closed) and the Three Cups sign which was transplanted onto the wall of the Cups (since closed, but the sign is still there in 2007), also in Trinity Street. There are others, which are allegedly tucked away in the museum, or in private hands, and the author would be very interested to know more about them.

See also the second article by Joseph Phillips, later in this chapter, concerning 'Inn-signia'.

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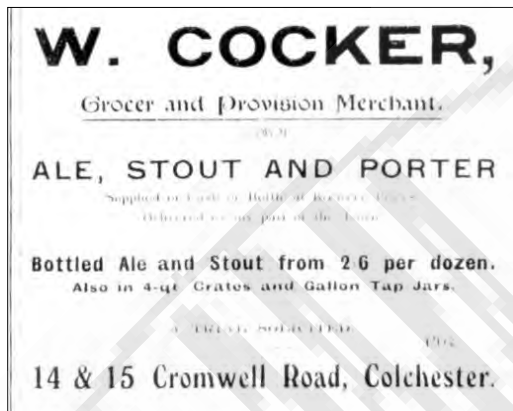
### Types of Pub Names

Pub names can be broken into several categories, some of these being as follows and some being a combination of categories:

1. Brewing Associated - Brewer's Arms, Maltster's Arms, Vine.
  2. Famous Personalities - Churchill, Cowdray, Salisbury.
  3. Heraldic - Blue Boar, Cross Keys, Red Lion.
  4. Local History - Boadicea, Centurion, Hole in the Wall.
  5. Locative - Baker's Arms, Recreation Hotel, New Market Tavern.
  6. Military or Naval - Duke of Wellington, Lord Cardigan, Lord Nelson, Alma, Inkerman.
  7. Mythical - George and the Dragon, Griffin, Unicorn.
  8. Nautical - Anchor, Mermaid, Neptune.
  9. Pairings - Crown and Anchor, Hound or Dog, Lion and Lamb.
  10. Sporting - Dog and Pheasant, Fencers, Huntsman, Rifleman.
  11. Religious or Superstitious - Angel, Mitre, Noah's Ark.
  12. Royal Personages - Albert, Duke of York, King's Head, Queen's Head.
  13. Traditional - Bear, Bell, Bull, Cock, Falcon, Leopard, Lion.
  14. Strange - Flea and Flannel, Goat and Boot, Odd One Out, Wig and Fidgett, Faunus and Firkin.
  15. Trades or Professions - Bakers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Joiners, Tailors, Weavers.
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## Beer Types and Brand Names

The origin of beer is lost with the mist of ages, but one Herodotus, writing around 450 BC, talked of making wine out of barley and that it was the Egyptian goddess Isis who was its inventor. So it would seem that the discovery in Colchester of evidence from the Boudican Revolt in AD 60 of a burnt layer of malted barley, being prepared for the making of beer was not a world's first. It was however the earliest known record of beer production in this country. So, not only is Colchester the oldest recorded town in Britain but also the earliest recorded beer producer in Britain.



So, the Emperor Claudius and perhaps even old King Cunobelin himself were versed in the mysteries of the mash tun and, who knows, may have had a cellar or three of Old October.

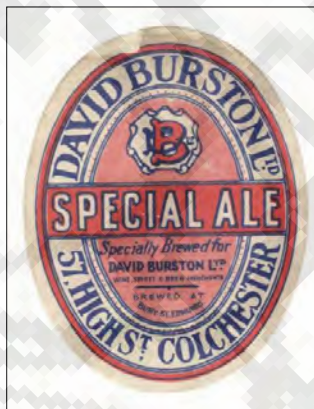
On that note, we skip a few centuries.

In the 19th century, individual family run breweries bought-up public houses and tied them to sell their product, thus guaranteeing demand for their own product. It was widely recognised then, and perhaps still is today, that the profit is not in making beer but in selling it. Today, most public houses are owned or controlled by a brewery, despite recent governmental attempts at reducing their monopoly.

In Chapter 4 we will see information about local brewers and various prominent pub owners who were not brewers. But that leaves a class of purveyors of beer that had 'off' licences, rather than 'on'; the likes of W. Cocker, David Burston, E.B.Bucke, and numerous others. The illustrations show three examples of advertisements taken from

CASH PRICE LIST OF BOTTLED ALE AND STOUT	
In Patent Screw Stoppered Bottles.	
	PER DOZEN Imperial Half Pints
Anglo Bavarian Amber Ale .. .. .	2/6 1/6
As supplied to the Carlton and other London Clubs	
Anglo Bavarian Invalid Stout .. .. .	2/6 1/6
" " Dinner Ale .. .. .	2/3
Lewis & Barker's Oatmeal Stout .. .. .	3/6 2/-
Long & Co's Stout .. .. .	2/6
Ind Coope & Co's Stout .. .. .	2/6
" " AKK Ale .. .. .	2/6
Combe & Co's Nourishing Stout .. .. .	2/9
Bass & Co's Table Ale .. .. .	2/6
" " East Indian Pale Ale .. .. .	3/10 2/-
" " Special Stout .. .. .	2/9
Guinness & Co's Dublin Extra Stout .. .. .	3/9 2/-
Pilsener Lager Beer .. .. .	3/6
Kops Ale, Non-intoxicating, Imperial Pts. .. .. .	2/6 1/3
" Stout .. .. .	2/3 1/3
Symons Gold Medal Devonshire Champagne Cider, 3/- per dozen Champagne Pints, 5/- Quarts.	
Bulmer's Herefordshire Perry, per doz. Champagne Pints, 3/6.	

TRADE PRICES ON APPLICATION. 1900



On the left an advertisement dating from 1900 for David Burston of 57 High Street. They were beer bottlers rather than brewers. The bottle label suggests Greene King as their beer supplier.

Benham's Colchester Directory of 1900.

In the same year, Daniells Breweries were selling their Porter, XXX Stout, Sparkling Dinner Ale and Creamy Stout. The Colchester Brewing Company, their Oyster Feast Stout and Old King Coal Strong Ale, whilst Charrington Nicholl offered their Prize Medal Ale, Light Bitter Ale and Stout.

Nowadays, these products do not sound very attractive but presumably they were enjoyed by many.

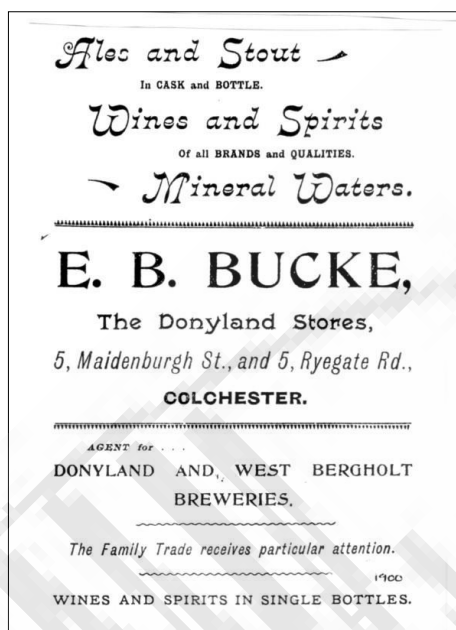
Elsewhere in this book will be found a selection of beer bottle labels from the Cooks and Daniells breweries, before they ceased. No other Colchester brewery bottle

labels have survived it seems, although some old embossed bottles have survived and have been preserved for posterity by collectors of such ephemera.

Whilst the taste of the beer from years back cannot be recorded, the names and types have survived, with beer having been variously described as ale, porter, stunning, stout, brown ale, light ale, lager, heavy, mild, etc. Popular brand names of the 1960s, such as Double Diamond, Watney's Red Barrel, etc. seem to have all but disappeared. By the 1990s we typically had India Pale Ale (IPA for short), John Smith's Best Bitter, etc, together with a mass of real ales such as Theakston's Old Peculiar, Old Speckled Hen, Nethergate, etc.

However, the biggest change in drinking habits during the 20<sup>th</sup> century was with the increased consumption of lager, a type of beer previously associated with the continent - and Germany in particular. This trend is analysed in chapter 3 in greater detail. Today there are many lager brand names, with Carling, Carlsberg, Fosters, Heineken, Kronenbourg, Stella Artois, etc. being the most popular.





For a time, a 'spin-off' from this trend, the 'designer beer' was born, a term given to a beer or lager that is sold in an attractive looking bottle so that the drinker foregoes the use of a glass to drink directly from the bottle - and the landlord saves on the amount of washing up to be done. It's a funny old world!

Of course, the boys and girls of CAMRA have been a force to be reckoned with in their campaign to rid the nation of what they disparagingly call 'nitro-keg' beer and to encourage smaller independent brewers of 'real ale'. The past 20 or so years has seen the growth of 'micro breweries' producing a huge range of traditionally brewed beers. The now nationally recognised 'Campaign for Real Ale', CAMRA's core aim, to promote real ale and pubs, as well as acting as the consumer's champion in relation to the UK and European beer and drinks industry, remain to this day.

But this book is not concerned with beer, other than to record which brewers owned what premises and the shenanigans that used to go on between rivals in court whenever an opportunity presented itself to do one another down. No, this book is concerned with the history of our pubs – so there we must leave it.

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### CAMRA, GOLD and SOCKED

Out of a desire to recapture the old style of beer production and delivery, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) was formed, an organisation that has a strong following in Colchester today. CAMRA does much good work with supporting traditional brewing concerns, especially those that use traditional methods. Public houses are encouraged to sell 'Real Ale' and regular visits are made by CAMRA members to taste the beer and to report back their findings to fellow members.

This phenomenal resurgence of traditionally brewed beer has resulted in many 'micro-breweries' starting up, these being small scale breweries dedicated to the production of top quality, usually non-pasteurised beer, often with quite outrageous names. The unfortunate side effects of such beer are numerous. The principle one being that the lack of pasteurisation means that the beer is 'live' i.e. it continues to ferment. This leads to flatulence in the drinker and a degree of distance from their non-real ale drinking friends. Secondary side effects can be seen as a tendency to wear highly patterned jumpers, often accompanied by a hirsute visage. In warmer weather, the jumper is replaced by the 'T' shirt with some incomprehensible slogans written front and back. Add to this the pot belly, the 'slack-arsed' jeans, the slurred speech and the total intolerance of lager drinkers, the picture is complete. To the casual observer, there is a noticeable lack of lager, soft drinks, women or vibrant young people at their so-called beer festivals (so-called because they don't see lager as real beer), a seemingly intentional ploy to get some serious drinking done without the normal distractions found down the pub. Yes, the real ale drinker is indeed a unique specimen, dedicated to his art!

A certain section of the beer drinking community noted the rise of CAMRA activity and felt that their own interests were being jeopardised. These were the lager drinkers, a sizeable (if misguided) group of people who liked their beer cold, and with nice fizzy bubbles. They had noticed the numerous hand pumps that were appearing at the bar, with all their strange sounding names, their % strengths quoted and, in particular, the muscles that were appearing on their favourite barmaid's biceps. There was no commensurate increase in the range of lager for sale and they felt aggrieved. This led to the formation of the Good Old Lager Drinkers (GOLD) whose motto is 'Frigidus est Optimus' (cold is best - and grammatically flawed). They set about changing attitudes to lager drinking and their ten golden rules are designed to lay down the principles of good lager drinking and the education of non-lager drinkers. Their impact on pub life was on a par with being savaged by a dead sheep and was of some amusement to the CAMRA membership. Only time will tell whether their aims will be met!

Another group in the town, the Society of Keg Drinkers (SOCKED) like to keep themselves to themselves and operate an underground organisation first developed during the Second World War. Little is known about them other than they mostly smoke pipes, wear trilby hats and can often be seen drinking halves. Sadly, they are a dying breed.

(In case of any doubt, the foregoing is not to be taken entirely seriously!  
In fact, those without a sense of humour should not be  
reading this book in the first place.)

## Billeting of the Army in Colchester's Inns

(The following is based on an article written by Mr Gerald Rickword<sup>1</sup>.)

It was not until the outbreak of the Great French War in 1793 that barracks were built in Colchester and other towns up and down the country. Previous to that, regiments were billeted in small parties over a wide area in towns and villages. The system pressed heavily on, and was a source of grievance to publicans, only inns and taverns being liable under the Mutiny Act to receive billets.

An entry in the corporation records in 1685 reads, "His Majestie's commission officers now quartering within the town be entertained with a bottle of wyne for ye joyfull news of ye defeat of ye rebells in the west." During the following year, mine host of the Red Lion was paid "the sum of five pounds for the quartering of several troopers more than his proportion he ought to have done." A return of the "Inns and Alehouses and their Stable Room and Bedding" sent to the War Office at this time shows there were at this time in Colchester 207 "Beds for Guests" and stabling for 460 horses, out of which civilian requirements would have to be met.

Not all inn-keepers were so obliging and complaints were general, a writer in the Gentleman's Magazine of 1743 summing up their attitude in the words "the Landlord looks upon the Soldier as an Intruder forced into his House, and Rioting in the Sloth at his Expense." During the American War, the Ipswich Journal of November 21st, 1778, wrote that "the burden of the soldiery in Essex is found insupportable, particularly in Colchester, where the principal inns have 150 men each; a petition has been sent up to the war office praying relief."

The outbreak of hostilities with Republican France in 1793, and the prospect of a long war, led to a 'Humble Petition of the Innholders and Alehouse keepers' of Colchester begging the Corporation 'to give all possible Encouragement to Government building Barracks in the Town.'

The pressing needs of the day led to prompt action being taken. By the time of the Peace of Amiens being signed in March 1802, wooden hutments for 5840 men had been erected. After a decline in military activity following Waterloo, it was the Crimean War which revived building of barracks, culminating with the brick built Meeanee and Hyderabad barracks being opened in 1898. The garrison went on to be further enlarged to cater for the needs of two world wars and the several other military actions and states of emergency - and many an ex-soldier has made his home in the town. As is the way with progress, those Victorian barracks were sold around 2004 and modern barracks built nearby.

The burden upon the inns and alehouses was thus removed, and the hard pressed inn keeper was able to settle down to running his business as he saw fit and to welcome the soldier as a customer, but on his own terms. New public houses started to spring up, being built in the vicinity of the new barracks, with names chosen to reflect Britain's proud military achievements. The soldier was here to stay!

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## Prostitution and Brothels

Prostitution, being perhaps the oldest profession known to man, was well represented in Colchester. Soldiers in the Victorian period were prevented from getting married without the permission of their commanding officers. The presence of the garrison with so many single young men with a shilling in their pocket was a natural lure for young women of that calling to come to the town to offer their wares.

Some public house licensees, especially those whose premises were close to the barracks, saw an opportunity for increased business. They allowed the 'girls' to use their premises to ply their trade, taking a cut of their earnings in the process. These brothels soon became known to the police, whose job it became to try and close them down.

To deal with the problem, Parliament passed the first of several Contagious Diseases Acts in 1864. These were intended to regulate prostitution in six garrison towns and ports (which included Colchester), where it was assumed soldiers and sailors needed prostitutes. Any women found within a certain radius of garrison areas could be arrested and taken to be physically examined, to see whether she had a sexually transmitted infection, followed by their compulsory treatment, where necessary.

The third of the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1869 sought to limit the spread of venereal disease. Prostitutes could volunteer for examination and treatment, those doing so acquiring a sort of official licence to practise. By complying with the Act, the brothels continued in their trade, virtually protected by the law. Those who were found to be diseased, were put into the Lock Hospital (long since demolished but then located in what is now Port Lane), where they would languish for up to 9 months. The men that they had been in contact with seem to have been free to go out and infect others with impunity!

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 17<sup>th</sup> Jun 1960

Even before the establishment of the camp in the 1850s, in 1842, the vestry of Holy Trinity parish had submitted a resolution that 'the awful extent of female prostitution in this town is a matter of deep regret to the inhabitants of the parish.' By 1867, prostitution was of sufficient concern for clergymen in the town to submit a petition<sup>1</sup> against the re-licensing of inns that kept brothels, with the result that thirteen pubs in the town had their licenses suspended until investigations had been carried out into their conduct.

To avoid local leniency, police officers were recruited from the Metropolitan Police force, and normally operated in plain clothes to avoid the suspicions of the prostitutes - and the landlords that, it was suspected, were harbouring them. A newspaper report of 1869<sup>2</sup> covered the activities of one Constable Knott who seemed to be particularly effective in seeking out his quarry. It was unusual for the local press to cover such a distasteful subject, mainly out of a fear of upsetting the tender sensibilities of its female readership. However, a report of the court proceedings, which concerned prostitution at the following houses, was included in some detail:

Black Boy, Stanwell Street - said to be frequented by bad characters, but as it was in an area full of such characters, it was probably best left to cater for them rather than have them move elsewhere. Its licence was granted.

Ship, Headgate - said to also be frequented by bad characters and its licence was refused.

Abbeygate, Stanwell Street - Constable Knott claimed that the house was frequented by prostitutes and bad characters. Four girls that he had found there had admitted to him that they were prostitutes. Its licence was refused.

Royal Mortar, Donyland Road - Licence refused.

Crown and Anchor, Stanwell Street - Licence refused.

Inkerman, Magdalen Street - Licensee given a warning.

Live and Let Live, Stanwell Street - Daniel Jennings, the licensee was given a warning about the conduct of his house and his licence was renewed.

Paddy's Goose, Vineyard Street - The licensee was one James Francis. Constable Knott didn't mince his words. This, he said, was a common brothel and a resort of prostitutes. The licence was refused.

Crown and Sceptre, South Street - Knott stated that this was a house where prostitutes resorted. Its licence was granted with a caution to the licensee.

It soon became of concern that these laws were unjust, as middle-class women were being arrested and prostitutes brutally examined. The campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts, led by Josephine Butler (1826-1906), gave a powerful stimulus to an embryonic feminist movement. It must have taken great courage on her part, in an age when women were mere chattels of men and sex was a taboo subject. At the Colchester by-election in November 1870, she spoke out against Sir Henry Storks, a keen supporter of the legislation. Reports stated that local procurers (pimps) and brothel-keepers were determined to stop the repealers, by fair means or foul. On Mrs Butler's arrival in the town to help with the campaign, she tried to book into two hotels on two occasions, but, each time, the owner had to ask her to leave, when a mob gathered in the street outside and threatened to wreck the building. As the campaign went on, the violence continued. On another occasion, she and another woman were recognised in the street by a gang of hooligans after addressing a public meeting, whereby they had to run for their lives and take shelter in a cellar. The damage to Storks' reputation was done and he lost the election.

Other houses are mentioned in the text of this book in connection with this trade. Landlords needed to be discreet, to avoid attracting the attention of the authorities. Because of the clandestine nature of the trade, little documentary evidence exists for the historian to call upon. It was not until the end of the first World War that the Vineyard Street area of the town, ceased to be known as 'Colchester's Red Light District,' when one presumes the last of the brothels closed down.

In 2007, an un-official view was given by a member of Her Majesty's armed forces that, 'neither brothels, nor ladies of negotiable affection, exist in Colchester, mainly due to the activities of enthusiastic amateurs'. However, that isn't to say that prostitution in the town ceased or that it no longer exists in Colchester. A glance at the personal section of our local newspapers today will confirm it!

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 30th Aug 1867

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 10 Sep 1869

## Recollections from 1906

This is an article that was written by Joseph Phillips around the year 1906 - and which was published in a local newspaper. Although we do not know his age at the time, it is assumed that he was drawing from his own memory which may have gone back to the 1850s. Remember that the information that he gives refers to a time before the advent of the motor car, electric lighting, the juke box, the pool table, the fruit machine, smoky bacon crisps, etc. All the things that we take for granted now as a normal part of pub life. His memories add character to the shapes shown in the maps section of this book, referring as they do to a comparable period. He mentions more than sixty pubs and we must assume that he had a certain familiarity with them all. He was writing at a point just preceding the period when the licensing authorities were closing down many of the town's licensed premises, making his recollections all the more informative.

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With what feelings of pleasure the traveller's thoughts turn to the inns of bygone days! Sweet remembrance is awakened of the good fellowship, conviviality, genial hospitality, and comfort therein, particularly of those that were of good repute.

In the coaching days many on the main roads were specially attractive and interesting; generally a merry company, large or small according to the season, would gather beneath their roofs. Ruskin tells us the railway has taken away much of the romance of the roads. Be the cause what it may there is no doubt much of the charm of the inns and taverns has passed, even with those away from the main roads, which at no time could be classed among the traveller's rests. The harp and the fiddle have ceased, and the dancing is no more; the playing cards and cribbage board have vanished. Proprietors and customers of the old school die out, and landlords with new ideas cater for a public with new requirements; now it is a hasty drink at the bar, and away. At many of the hostels, comfort, according to the veterans who never tire of narrating the past virtues of the inns, now seems a secondary consideration; and good liquor is of little moment: the "genuine stunning" is unknown; cold punch, shrub, the long churchwarden clay, and the snuff-box are out of date.

The abolition of the hustings, the institution of the laws relating to treating at elections, the giving up of the centre for the paying of pensioners, and billeting of militia during training, no doubt spoiled much of the fun, lessened the animation, and affected the landlord's pockets. In an ordinary lifetime changes are numerous, many houses disappear, some are re-modelled beyond recognition, change in sign and management, and others, totally new and up to date, appear.

In the ancient town of Colchester, many alterations have taken place since Charles Dickens, then a young reporter for a London paper, journeyed on his way to Ipswich, thence to immortalise the "Great White Horse." The Cups in High Street, said to date back to 1572, has been completely rebuilt. The names of Salter and Beresford are no longer over the doors. The Red Lion, founded in 1400, whilst still retaining its ancient appearance, has undergone important structural changes, though some fine carving work, probably representing St George and the Dragon, still remains in good preservation. It is said that originally the sign of the hostelry was the "George."

The Bear, then at the top of East Stockwell Street, or Bear Lane, as it was known in those days, has entirely disappeared, and the site occupied by Mr Claridge, saddler and harness maker. The White Hart, an important house in coaching and posting days, closed its doors in the thirties: the main entrance was under the archway, now the approach to Bank Buildings, and on the site of the stables and coach houses now stand Mumford's engineering works. The greater portion of the hotel has for many years been a select club house.

Extensive alterations and rebuilding have taken place at the Angel. The Tap has disappeared to make way for new premises in Stockwell Street. It is classed with the oldest houses in Colchester. In one of the Corporation assembly books, dated 1603-4, it is stated "The Lion, Angel, and White Hart were appointed the only three wine taverns in ye town." The Duncan's Head, of Head Street, with its steep flight of steps to the entrance, has long ceased to be, and the premises transformed into the well-known pianoforte warehouse of Messrs Aggio and Son.

The Cross Keys, at the corner of Long Wyre and Culver Streets, has been partly rebuilt: the new premises, though convenient, do not compensate for the loss of an interesting town relic. Many lovers of things ancient viewed with regret the demolition of the old house. As in another case the alterations at the Wagon and Horses at the top of North Hill many valuable specimens of old-time carvings were lost to Colchester.

To-day, there are two houses of the sign of the Globe one in Military Road, the other in North Street. The latter, before its rebuilding, was known as the Cock and Crown. The Head-Gate Hotel of to-day was the Elephant and Castle of yesterday; formerly it was the Ship. The Ben Johnson of North Hill now stands forth as the Cock and Pye. The Victory of Butt Road changed to the Artillery Inn: its proximity to the Artillery Barracks may have suggested the second sign. In the course of time it became the Royal.

About thirty years ago fire claimed the Blue Boar, where now stands the free library; and in 1883 the same element destroyed the Nelson's Head, an old hostelry at the bottom of West Stockwell Street. At one time this house was under the proprietorship of Ward Watson, who was perhaps better known as the landlord of the Waggon and Horses. The Half Moon, of Long Wyre Street, with its adjoining music hall, is now a furniture warehouse and factory. The Life Boat, of Magdalen Street, has devolved to a fried fish shop, whilst the Anchor opposite changed to the Boar's Head. The old Lamb Inn of High Street has given place to the new Lamb Hotel, and the landlord generally known as Jacob Everson, whose Christian name, by the way, was Abraham, no longer draws pots of foaming liquor, but about ten years ago, after thirty-six years' tenancy, joined the majority.

The well-known ironworked sign of the Three Horseshoes now hangs in the Corporation Museum, and Hythe Quay is another renowned tavern the less. The Queen's Head is gone from Pelham's Lane, the Packet from Hythe Hill, the Roman Urn from Roman Road, the Fencers from Maidenburgh Street, and the site of the Oddfellows' Arms in Northgate Street is now an open space, a great improvement to the Rygate entrance to the Castle Park. The Recreation Hotel has recently been erected on the site of the original Royal Mortar, that building in the interregnum of nearly a quarter of a century, was occupied successively by Messrs. Birkett and Harrington, and during that period had the distinction of being a very popular and efficient school for boys.

The King's Head at Lexden, on the London Road, no longer supplies the beverage of John Barleycorn, having been converted into a temperance hotel. In March, 1843, the Eastern Counties Railway was opened as far as Colchester. In the way of travellers, great things were evidently expected, for a large and handsome pile adjacent to the station was erected by Sir S M Peto, and established as a hotel. It was considered its proximity to the terminus would ensure plenty of business. It proved, however, in that capacity, a failure. In a short time it became the Eastern Counties' Asylum, and remains so to this day. The Black Boy, in a lane of that name, now boasts the emblems of sweetness and power, the Rose and Crown, the thoroughfare itself has changed to Vineyard Street. Paddy's Goose, another inn in the same locality, has flown.

The new Plough Hotel, erected in 1882, is some few doors from the original hostel of that sign. The Lancer, of North Hill, was formerly the Ipswich Arms, the Gaiety music hall of Mersea Road the Sir Colin Campbell. There are not a few Colcestrians who still remember the Alma, of Military Road, as the Red, White and Blue, and Messrs Aberdeen's establishment in Eld Lane, as the Tailor's Arms. Some, too, may recall the Green Dragon of Pelham's Lane, the Chequers and the Flea and Flannel, of Bergholt Road, the Yorkshire Grey, of Magdalen Street, and the Bee Hive, of George Street.

The Jolly Waggoners of Quayside have apparently ceased their mirth; the tavern of that sign stood in a gap near what is now Messrs. Parry and Co's offices. The house can still be recognised by its semi-circular flight of steps. A once imposing building at the Hythe known by the present generation as a furniture warehouse in the occupation of the late Mr George Last, in early Victorian days was an inn of importance, the Perseverance. Although now tenantless, and out of repair, the house still bears in the interior evidences of past beauty, fine panelled walls, carvings, and handsomely decorated ceilings. A few townsfolk who are in the autumn of life, can recall two taverns in Stanwell Street, the Crown and Anchor, near or at the spot now occupied by Mr Diss, builder, and a small house opposite, of the sign of the Abbey Gate. So too, they may remember the Fox and Dogs of St Botolph's Street, on the site of which are well known premises occupied by Mr Clamp, and the Blue Posts, at the corner of Osborne Street, now rebuilt, and used as a furniture warehouse by Messrs Blomfield and Co.

Mr Thomas Martin, of the Grapes Inn, Mersea Road, can claim in respect to Colchester to be the only landlord still holding the licence of the same house as of 34 years ago, he having been hosteller continuously for that period.

There are now but three remaining houses tenanted by those of the same name as of thirty years ago the King's Arms, Crouch Street, the Artillery Inn, Maidenburgh Street (originally the Blue Coat School), and the Railway Tavern, at the corner of Military Road; most singularly each of these houses is occupied by the widow of the previous tenant. Although there have been changes of landlords at the British Lion, Stanwell Street, the present landlady has uninterruptedly for a term of forty-three years occupied the house and catered for the thirsty inhabitants of that neighbourhood. In days past the inn was known as the Black Boy, a sign adopted shortly after a house in a street near by changed its name.

The most recent alteration in sign was on the installation of the Electric Tramways in 1904, when the White Pig of North Street became the Tramway Tavern.

Although not intended as complete, in the foregoing are enumerated many of the changes within the living memories of Colcestrians.



To summarise, the pubs that Mr Phillips mentioned in his epic article were:

Abbey Gate, Stanwell Street	- formerly the Ship
Alma, Military Road	Jolly Waggoners, Quayside
- formerly the Red White and Blue	King's Arms, Crouch Street
Angel	King's Head, Lexden
Angel Tap	Lamb Hotel, High Street
Artillery Inn, Maidenburgh Street	- formerly Lamb Inn
- formerly Blue Coats School	Lancer, North Hill
Bear	- formerly Ipswich Arms
Bee Hive, George Street	Life Boat, Magdalen Street
Black Boy, Black Boy Lane	Nelson's Head
Blue Boar	Oddfellows Arms, Northgate Street
Blue Posts, Osborne Street	- demolished
Boar's Head, Magdalen Street	Packet, Hythe Hill
- formerly the Anchor	Paddy's Goose
British Lion, Stanwell Street	Perseverance
- formerly the Black Boy	Plough Hotel, newly erected in 1882
Chequers, Bergholt Road	Queen's Head, Pelhams Lane
Cock and Pie	Railway Tavern, Military Road
- formerly the Ben Johnson	Recreation
Cross Keys	Red Lion
Crown and Anchor, Stanwell Street	Roman Urn, Roman Road
Cups	Rose and Crown, Vineyard Street
Duncan's Head	Royal, Butt Road
Fencers, Maidenburgh Street	- formerly Artillery Inn
Flea and Flannel, Bergholt Road	- formerly Victory
Fox and Dogs, St Botolph's Street	Royal Mortar
Gaiety, Mersea Road	Tailor's Arms, Short Wyre Street
- formerly the Sir Colin Campbell	Three Horseshoes, Hythe Quay
Globe, Military Road	Tramway Tavern, North Street
Globe, North Street	- formerly the White Pig
- formerly the Cock and Crown	Waggon and Horses
Grapes Inn, Mersea Road	White Hart
Green Dragon, Pelhams Lane	Yorkshire Grey, Magdalen Street
Half Moon, Long Wyre Street	
Head Gate Hotel	
- formerly Elephant and Castle	

67 pubs mentioned in the article.

The following is the sequel to Mr Phillips' epic article, originally published in September 1906.

There are today over 250 houses in Colchester where intoxicating liquor is retailed; 108 are fully licensed, the remainder are chiefly for the sale of beer; but here and there is a hosteller holding a wine licence with addition to his permit to sell malt beverage. With the exception of very few indeed, each house has a sign, but in no case is there one bearing a title either peculiar, quaint, comical, or ridiculous, and very few that are meaningless.

The old town cannot boast in the way of inn-signia a Green Man, a Silent Woman, Flying Pig, or awkward combinations like the Whale and Crow, the Three Tuns and Oyster, Pig and Whistle, or Bell and Neat's Tun. The signs generally are plain and sensible; and where combinations occur they are, with the exception of the Goat and Boot, congruous and explain themselves. Thus we find Coach and Horses, Waggon and Horses, Horse and Groom, Health and Happiness, Crown and Sceptre, Chaise and Pair. Although some of the signs of the inns are undoubtedly ancient, there are none existing today which in themselves give one any clue to, or are commemorative of, the town's past history. Considering the important part Colchester played in the Parliamentary War it seems strange that it has no Lucas, Lisle, Capel, Fairfax, or Cromwell Arms, or no One-Eyed Gunner, Gay Cavalier, or Roundhead Taverns.

The King's Head, a house that figured in the surrender of those brave Royalist officers who had stubbornly led the defence of the town, and from whence Sir Charles Lucas, Sir George Lisle, and Sir Bernard Gascoigne, were summoned by Fairfax's messenger to the Council at the Moot Hall, has long ceased to be a hostel. Doubtless there are but few of the many that traversed Head Street and glanced into that quiet and peaceable court of Head Gate who think of the scene that was exacted on an August afternoon of 1648, to be followed by the tragic event on the Castle Bailey in the evening.

The King's Head commonly known as the 'The Hole in the Wall,' at the top of Balcerne Hill, is sometimes mistaken for the house in which the 'gentlemen and officers' surrendered to the Roundheads. The house undoubtedly is an ancient one, and probably was the 'tap' of a hotel that stood at the top of High Street.

In the town's inn-signia all classes are included. Royalty is represented by William IV, which may be found in Artillery Street, Victoria in North Street, and the Prince of Wales in Magdalen Street. The title of a few peers can be added, men of note in the world of politics, the navy, and the army. The Dukes of York, Marlborough, and Wellington, the Marquesses of Granby and Salisbury, Earl Cowper, Lords Palmerston, Raglan, Cardigan, and Nelson; Whilst a house in Stanwell Street perpetuates the memory of that fascinating outlaw Robin Hood.

Not only are there signs representing men of note in the army; some are indicative of various units. In Military Road we find the Grenadier, in Butt Road the Dragoon, in Ipswich Road the Rifleman, and in Artillery Street, a thoroughfare near the old barracks, the Artilleryman. In the catalogue of famous feats of arms there are the Waterloo, Alma, and Inkerman taverns, and a house in Magdalen Street suggests by the sign of the Red Cross a very necessary and humane adjunct to the battle field.

One is reminded of labour by the Carpenter's Arms of Chapel Street, the Joiner's Arms of East Hill, and the Bricklayer's Arms of Bergholt Road; and the Dog and Pheasant and the Greyhound are signs pleasing to sportsmen.

Attractive as many of them undoubtedly were, in not a few cases the personality of the landlords seemed to have in their day partially eclipsed the names of the inns. The Greyhound in Botolph Street was better known by the distinction 'Millers', and the Vine in Wyre as 'Lucar's', and subsequently 'Harper's'. The Marlborough Head was generally described as 'Walkers', and the Cups Wine Vaults as 'Nortons'. A few years back the names of Keymer, Middleton, Fletcher, Watson, French, Beresford, Guiver, Porter, Allen, and Woods, were as well, if not better known, than the signs of the houses they held licences for. Very few indeed, knew Messrs J and T Wicks' establishment in High Street as the Wheatsheaf.

In the course of time there have been, as shown in my last paper, many changes and signs, even within the living memory of townsfolk. Unless a sign is ill chosen, offensive, or meaningless, it is to be regretted that any alteration should take place. Inns and taverns even in densely populated towns are landmarks, and have figured in the events of other times and manners. There is probably a deal more in the history of inns that is lost and forgotten than any recorder's pen has yet written. It is said that Daniel Defoe, the author of Robinson Crusoe, resided in the house now known as the Stockwell Arms. Interesting as this statement is to Colcestrians, who would gladly recognise the popular writer as one of their past hostellers, it is a matter of regret that evidence is wanting as to whether the premises were then used as a tavern.

An ancient inn, the Leather Bottle, at Shrub End, has become so popular a landmark that that part of the village has for many years been commonly known as 'Bottle End'. Another inn on the same road, the Berechurch Arms, is on account of the shape of the building better known as the 'Roundhouse'.

No one can deny that the inns and taverns have improved. The few dens of vice that existed of old have vanished completely; other hostels, dirty, inconvenient, and partly misconducted, are thoroughly changed in structure and management; to permit drunkenness on licensed premises is now a most serious offence. The best inns of bygone days, houses of comfort and good repute, are better still today. It is doubtful if even the worst were ever so black as painted. It is the seamy side of tavern life which has chiefly come so prominently before the public: an isolated disturbance is by many taken as a fair sample of the hostels generally, and prejudice is more frequently a factor in settling one's opinions concerning them than the open mind, and the calm reviewing of the evidence of their usefulness. One must remember only a few years ago the inns where the only places available for an ordinary gathering, and many societies had their origin therein. The Colchester Co-operative Supply Stores, which today has grown into an important trading concern, was formed at Thompson's Coffee House in Short Wyre Street, now Mr Letch's bootshop; various lodges of Freemasons, Oddfellows, and Foresters, also had their birth at the tavern; and a well known political association in times past held its monthly meetings and half-yearly dinners at the hostelry known as the Sea Horse. Over half a century ago a resort of many liberals who have been prominent in the town was the Fencers, of Maidenburgh Street then kept by Tom Wire, a renowned Colcestrian, brother to David, who in 1858 was Lord Mayor of London. Chignell Wire, then a most active politician and strenuous fighter, generally known as 'Chig Wire', uncle to the landlord, was sometime chairman of the Liberal Club held therein. On the occasions of the Blue Coat School anniversary the repast, so popular in the old days, was prepared at this hostel. It will be remembered the school building was only a few doors away, and has been an inn - the Artillery Arms - for many years.

When one considers the device that forms the arms of Colchester, it may be a matter of surprise that the sign of the Three Crowns does not exist today. Nearly two centuries ago, however, a house of that name was an important coaching hostelry. An advertisement dated March 1738, informs the public that the 'Colchester old stage coach sets out from the Three Crowns Inn in Colchester every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, for the King's Arms, Leadenhall

Street, London'. The single fare was eight shillings for each passenger. That amount would mean about double today. It is believed that the house was near the top of High Street and the property of the Colchester Grammar School.

One striking feature in connection with the Inns of Colchester is the lack of pictorial signs; one would experience some difficulty in finding a score. Most of these now in existence are in the outlying parts of town; and it would be well for the seeker to solve for himself whether any of them are worth the quest.

One interesting old time sign of the King's Head Hotel already referred to may be found in the Town Hall. It represents King Henry VIII, and adjoined the house until its close in 1783; part of the hotel is now occupied by Doctor Laver; another portion in the court is used as offices by a firm of solicitors, and that which is presently known as the Royal Studio was in the old coaching times the parcels office.

One can picture the animated scene of the few minutes previous to the departure of the coach. The anxious passengers and inquisitive sightseers, some attired in the brilliant and costly fashion of George III; the prancing horses purposely kept restless by the flick of the driver's whip; the confusion over luggage and hurry of the fare who is only just in time; the bustle and shouts of attendants. The starting or arrival of the coach was an event that lost none of its attractiveness by its frequency. It is doubtful even today if the up to date motor bus or car, however elaborate and costly, can claim the general attention or will ever be regarded by one and all with that same fondness as the four steeds and the coach were in the days of old. And it is also a question whether the inns and taverns of today, have been reputed houses of call in the past, with all their improvements and modern ideas, some including the motor garage, will continue to charm and attract as they undoubtedly did before the advent of the railway.

Joseph Phillips, junr. - September 1906

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Mr Phillips had his own way of commenting on pub life, as he saw it a century ago; his words being as appropriate today as they were then. His obituary dated 1923 revealed that he was born in 1843, a Londoner originally, coming to Colchester in 1872. He was a cigar maker, with business premises where the Hippodrome now stands, and later a shop being taken in St Botolph's Street. He became a director of the Essex County Telegraph; a religious man by all accounts, but clearly one with a fondness for the town and its pubs.

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### The Ghost Pub Tour of Old Colchester Town



Mr Derek Wray – Ghost Finder General (in 2009)

In 1997, Mr Rob Brown and Mr Derek Wray, two of life's 'eccentrics', each with a fondness for Colchester's pubs and ghostly happenings, designed a tour based upon both subjects. Meeting outside the Town Hall, they would convey

their customers around the town, visiting the many locations where ghosts had been seen or sensed. One or two stops for refreshment were also part of the itinerary.

Regrettably, in the interest of improving trade, a couple of mischievous landlords were minded to conjure up stories of ghostly apparitions to encourage a visit by the tour group. Mr Brown and Mr Wray, being expert ghost finders, soon exposed their trickery, ensuring that only genuine spirits were included on their perambulations.

The tour was soon recognised for its excellence and for its particular interest to visitors to the town. News of these two fellows and further ghostly information could be sought at the town's Visitor Information Centre.

Whether or not such a ghost tour exists when you read this will need to be enquired after at Colchester's visitor information centre. Hopefully, Colchester's many ghosts will always be represented in the field of visitor attractions.

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### A Half in Every Pub

This is a list of the pubs that an old gentleman wrote down as being in order of travelling from St Botolph's down to the Hythe. There are 25 in a straight line, with an extra 6 along the quayside, all giving credence to the often repeated yarn that said 'in the old days you couldn't drink half a pint of ale in every pub and end up walking at the Hythe.'

no.	name	period	present condition
1	Woolpack	1797 to 1968	demolished
2	Fountain	1870 to date	closed, with a name of Tribal
3	Plough	1760 to 1968	demolished
4	Prince of Wales	1870 to 1909	now a restaurant
6	Unicorn	1897 to 1912	derelict building demolished around 2004
7	Inkerman	1881 to 1913	demolished
8	Boar's Head	1894 to 1910	demolished
9	Life Boat	1870 to 1890	demolished
10	Duke of Wellington	1817 to 1910	demolished
11	Waterloo	1816 to 1982	demolished 1997
12	Army and Navy	1870 to 1907	demolished
13	Colchester Arms	1798 to 1910	now a shop
14	Red Cross	1820 to 1907	demolished
16	Baker's Arms	1830 to 1995	later the Beer House and closed in 2012
17	Mariners	1760 to 1913	now a shop
18	Duke of York	1796 to date	now a restaurant
19	Bugle Horn	1800 to date	closed in 2004
20	Wheatsheaf	1870 to 1962	demolished
21	Barley Mow	1804 to 1972	demolished
22	Lord Nelson	1890 to date	now offices
23	Dolphin	1760 to 1939	now offices
24	Queens	1760 to 1982	now a shop
25	Swan	1500 to 1956	now dwellings

He also included the following in his list, which are not on the straight line route but follow the river's course along Hythe Quay:

26	Rising Sun	1789 to 1995	closed in September 1995
27	Ordnance	1804 to 1959	demolished
28	<b>Anchor</b>	1840 to date	now the Spinnaker
29	New Dock	1870 to 1984	demolished 1997
30	<b>Maltsters</b>	1840 to date	now the Quayside
31	Neptune	1818 to 1935	demolished

From the dates shown (added by the author), this list must have referred to the 1900s. The old gentleman (whose name we do not know) said that he was born at the White Lion.

Today, there are only 2 of these 31 pubs still in business (in 2015), all shown highlighted, and only one retaining its original name.



## Colchester's Beer Houses

The Beer House Act (1830) abolished tax on beer and allowed pubs to open for 18 hours a day. Public houses were already trading from 6am to 9pm but the new Act saw a swathe of 'beer-only' premises open across England and Wales with extended trading hours, from 4am to 10pm. By this act it was now possible for any householder assessed to the poor rate to sell beer, ale and cider without a licence from local justices by taking out an excise licence granted by the Excise authorities. Regrettably, this piece of legislation, together with the fact that an earlier Act of 1828 had failed to make provision for the keeping of licensing records by the Clerk of the Peace, means that the history of licensing for the period 1828 - 1872 was not satisfactorily recorded.

Therefore, the borough licensing records do not identify by name the houses that were beerhouses (rather than public houses), until 1907. Also, the 1876 map series does not show them by name, nor in trade directories. This seems to have been through snobbery than for any other reason, the superior status of the Public House being jealously guarded by publicans. We are therefore forced to find alternative means of identifying these houses, such as in newspaper reports of licensing days, the censuses and very occasional references in trade directories.

The following is a list of the known beerhouses in the town, the earliest being the Baker's Arms in 1832 and the last being the Stockwell Arms in 1958. Those highlighted are still in business, but having been awarded Public House status and not necessarily carrying the same name. The list is far from complete, especially as some Public Houses were refused licences on occasions where they had been badly conducted and they reverted to beerhouses. A case in point is the Jews Harp which had its full licence withdrawn twice before being closed down for good.

Beer House Name	earliest known date	date closed	date made a full Public House
Abbeygate	1869	1869	
<b>Abbey Arms</b>	1914		1949
Alexandra	1871	1913	
Army and Navy	1871	1907	
Artillery Arms	1907	1907	
Bakers Arms	1832		1956
<b>Beehive, Bromley Road</b>	1871		1949
Beehive, North Hill	1881	1907	
Black Boy	1869		1869
Brewery Tavern	1891	1962	
British Hotel	1869		
British Grenadier	1859		
British Lion	1863	1909	
Carpenters Arms	1863		
Crown, Lexden	1861		1949
Crown and Sceptre	1869		
Dagmar	1881	1909	
<b>Foresters Arms</b>	1881		1956
<b>Foundry Arms</b>	1907		1952
Gardeners Arms	1861	1913	
Health and Happiness	1871	1910	
Hospital Arms	1861		1949
Jew's Harp	1867	1869	
Lancer	1881	1908	
<b>Little Crown</b>	1856		1951
Live and Let Live, Stanwell Street	1871	1909	
Locomotive, Chitts Hill	1871	1910	
Lord Cardigan	1871	1911	
Lord Nelson	1881		1955
Mermaid	1871		1949
New Dock	1871		1949
Paddy's Goose	1869	1869	
Railway Tavern, Magdalen Street	1871	1909	
Robin Hood	1907		1952
Royal Mortar	1869		
Royal Oak, Harwich Road	1907		1951
Six Bells	1871		1949
Spotted Cow	1861	1909	



Star, Head Street	1861	1909	
Star, Lexden	1861		1940
Stockwell Arms	1871		1958
Tramway Tavern	1896		1956
Travellers Friend	1871		1951
<b>Victoria</b>	1859		c1870
Welcome Sailor	1861		1954
Wheatsheaf	1871		1955
William IV	1871	1919	
Yorkshire Grey	1869		

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### Changing Times

So, let us end this chapter with a couple of quotations from times past, concerning the state of Colchester's morality.

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#### THE INCREASE OF IMMORALITY IN COLCHESTER.

To the Editor of the Essex Standard.

Sir, - I was present at Mr. Harding's second lecture to young men, given at the Public Hall on Wednesday evening last, and was greatly pleased with the remarks made by the Mayor, who, much to his honour, presided on that occasion.

I think, Sir, that we should esteem ourselves particularly fortunate in having a Chief Magistrate with so much earnestness of character, and who so strongly feels the responsibility, which rests upon him. The dark and sorrowful results of vice and crime, which it is so often the lot of a magistrate to witness from the Bench, have evidently been regarded by him with no careless or inattentive eye. But, the sad lesson which, these things teach has been learned by him, and hence his earnest desire is to be up and doing.

No one can deny that the evils so feelingly and powerfully dwelt upon by Mr. Harding in his lectures have greatly increased and are increasing in our town. Are we better or worse than other town's is not the question: but does not the evil exist, and cannot, nay, must not, something be done to meet it? Mr. Harding very truly spoke of the connexion which exists between the licentiousness we deplore so much, and the drunkenness which we also deplore, but make no endeavours, I mean efficiently, to abate.

It is not necessary to prove that there is this connexion between drunkenness and crime, as this is an admitted fact: wherever public-houses and beer-shops abound their vice and crime abound also. Here, then, is something which can be dealt with; and I hesitate to say that if the moral character of Colchester is to be bettered the system of almost indiscriminate public-house licensing must be altered, and the character and doings of existing drink-selling places strictly looked into; and if we must have such places they must not be allowed to remain what many of them are - public-house, gambling-house, and brothel all in one; filthy sinks of iniquity and moral nuisances to the neighbourhood in which they stand.

I shall, perhaps be excused for quoting from the report of Chaplain of Kirkdale Gaol. He says, "Whilst our towns are allowed to remain in the demoralized state which I am called upon year after year to deplore, and the beer-houses and night-houses are gaping on all sides and at all hours for their victims, whilst music and other exciting amusements are diverted from their innocent and desirable purpose of cheering the vacant hours of the toil-worn mechanic, and made to pander the vices and excesses of the haunts of immorality, in which our criminal population are bred and nurtured, the schoolmaster may open his doors and instruct in every street, the clergy may exhort and warn with all earnestness, the gaol chaplain may strain every nerve to reclaim and return; but I feel convinced that the labours of all if (which God forbid) they be not wholly fruitless, will at least be miserably crippled, and too often paid with bitter disappointment".

Some such ideas as these have, no doubt, presented themselves to the mind of our worthy Mayor; and I am, therefore, rejoined to hear him so boldly express his determination to attempt the adoption of some measures, but only to prevent the further increase, but to drive back, the tide of vice and immorality which is sweeping through our town; and this, whether he is supported or not. But on this point he need not fear; he is sure to be supported by the sympathy of all those whose sympathy is worth having - those who have at heart the welfare of their fellow beings. I

trust that he may meet with all the success he can wish for, and that our town may become as conspicuous for its moral as it is for physical beauty and cleanliness.

I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
St. John's Street, Nov.30th.1857  
THOS DOBSON.

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Thomas Dobson's letter to the Essex Standard was written at a time of great concern amongst the good folk of Colchester about what they saw as moral decline. This was associated with a sector of our taverns, together with the presence of the military, whose soldiers were not easily able to get married without permission from their commanding officers or the means to provide a suitable home for their ensuing families. A few years later, many of the offending taverns were closed down by the authorities, this being discussed elsewhere in this book. Dobson's views are followed here by another quotation from Joseph Phillips jun, from 1906 (his earlier 'epic' article, reproduced earlier in this chapter).

'No one can deny that the inns and taverns have improved. The few dens of vice that existed of old have vanished completely; other hostels, dirty, inconvenient, and partly misconducted, are thoroughly changed in structure and management; to permit drunkenness on licensed premises is now a most serious offence. The best inns of bygone days, houses of comfort and good repute, are better still today. It is doubtful if even the worst were ever so black as painted. It is the seamy side of tavern life which has chiefly come so prominently before the public: an isolated disturbance is by many taken as a fair sample of the hostels generally, and prejudice is more frequently a factor in settling one's opinions concerning them than the open mind, and the calm reviewing of the evidence of their usefulness.'

Compare these two views with those expressed in the Channel 4 television programme made in Colchester and shown in January 2012, stating Colchester to be the worst drinking town in Britain. How would Messrs Dobson and Phillips have viewed the progress that Colchester has made in more than a century since they made their own commentaries?

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The Cooper's Arms in Ford Street, Aldham, with the name of Seeley over the door.  
John Seeley was the landlord from 1908, according to Kelly's Directories.  
This pub is now a restaurant.

# Chapter 3

## Licensing

The number of licensed premises in Colchester, has varied considerably over the years and this section attempts to show the changes, together with other relevant factors.

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### Early Taxation and Licensing

Henry II introduced the first national tax on beer in 1188 to raise money for the crusades and, since that time, beer has been taxed in one form or other. The price of beer was fixed by Henry III in his assize of Bread and Ale in 1267, being 1d, 1½d and 2d per gallon, according to strength. A national licensing system for alehouses was introduced by Henry VII in 1495; an early attempt to give justices of the peace power to take sureties for good behaviour from alehouse keepers.

The first Act concerned with licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor was passed in 1552 and ordered that all keepers of alehouses and tippling houses should be licensed either by the justices of the peace at the Sessions Court or by two justices, out of Sessions. From time to time, the ale sellers were to enter into recognisances, or bonds, that they would maintain good order in their houses and not allow the playing of unlawful games, such as quoits, bowls, cards, dice, football and tennis. This first Act, modified by various Acts of Parliament, Royal Proclamations and Orders of Privy Council, remained in force until 1753.

The Reverend Philip Morant, in his history of Colchester<sup>1</sup> noted the unpopular Patent of Inns in the reign of King James I, citing the terms by which one Thomas Benne may hold keep *an 'Inne or common Hosterie.....and to continue for a signe there the signe of the Shipp'*.

The Essex Quarter Sessions Order Book of 1652 to 1661 laid down the conditions by which an alehouse could become licensed. The alehouse recognisances from this period still exist in the Essex Record Office, although the names of the houses were not mentioned until 1764. The conditions were as follows:

1. *That noe Alehouse bee hereafter Licenced but att a publique meeting of the Justices in their severall Divisions and that all Licences be signed by the Justices then present or two or more of them according to the Law.*
2. *That noe persons bee Lycenced but such as are well affected to the Government, of honest life and conversacon, and such as bring certificate of the same under the handes of the Minister of the parrish & Three or more well affected persons of the Neighborhood.*
3. *That noe person bee Lycenced but upon entring into Recognizance with two Suretyes, the Alebouskeeper to bee bound in 40l [£40] and the Suretyes in 20l a peice, which Suretyes shalbee persons of honesty haveing each of them 10l per annum reall estate or 200l personall estate and liveing within the same parrish or parrishes adjacent, And that they bee not Innkeepers, Alebouskeepers, Bailiffs or Servants.*
4. *That noe person bee Lycenced but such as have sufficient accomodacon for Travellers, vizt. Two Spare Bedds att the Least and Stable roome for Foure horses, And that every Alehousekeeper have a signe over his Doore.*
5. *That there shalbee none Licenced but in thoroughfare Townes, or in such Townes as stand upon the Sea coasts or neere Navigable Rivers, or in Comon Roades Three Miles distant from any Towne, And that they bee such as live neere Neighbors and not in blind Lanes or Corners out of Roades.*
6. *That the Justices of the Peace in their severall Divisions Doe reduce the number of Alebouskeepers to as few as may bee, And that they doe ascertainne the number in every Towne and parrish and certify the same to the next Generall Sessions of the peace, together with the severall Recognizances of the said Alebouskeepers, to the end the same may bee read by the Clarke of the Peace att a full Court att the beginning of the Sessions, And that the said Court may have a View of all the Alebouskeepers in every Division, And that noe addicon to the number soe ascertained bee made but in open Sessions, and that to bee first certified by the Justices of the Division.*
7. *That uppon Conviccon or suppression of any Alebouskeeper, Certificate thereof bee made to the next Sessions and whether it be first, Second or Third Conviccon, The same to bee alsoe publiquey read as aforesaid in open Sessions.*
8. *That the Justices of peace Doe keepe their monthly meetings, and att the said meetings and otherwise Doe use all possible diligence and care in the vigorous execucon of the Lawes for the Suppressing of all unlicenced Alebouses, and in causeing Constables and other Officers to bee dexterous in discharge of their duties for the discovering, presenteing, conviccon and punishment of all such Offenders.*

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<sup>1</sup> Book 1, Page 53

From the foregoing, it can clearly be seen where Oliver Cromwell's short lived government of that period saw the problem areas and is perhaps why so many of our oldest pubs are (or were) either located on street corners or in prominent positions. It is from these rules that our licensing laws of today have been derived, gradual changes having taken place as social and economic conditions dictated.

In 1753, annual licensing of houses was made statutory. This was done in Colchester, with simple entries made in a book, recording the name of the house, the individual who held the licence and the name of his or her sureties. In 1764 there were 78 licences granted for a population of around 10,000 people, making around one licence per 128 people. In 1831 81 licences were granted. In 1862 there were 97 licences granted.

### Town Population - 1801 to 1911

In 1830 came the Duke of Wellington's Beer House Act, which allowed for new licensed premises to be opened that sold only beer and not spirits, especially gin. It had long been a problem, ever since the Dutch King William III had introduced this easily produced spirit, also known as 'Mother's Ruin', and the subject of Hogarth's famous painting entitled 'Gin Lane'.

*Drunk for a Penny, Dead drunk for twopence,*

...was the saying. As a consequence, the government considered that the drinking of gin and other spirits, was the scourge of the working classes and that, if they must drink, then they should be encouraged to drink more beer, which was considered less harmful.

The arrival of the permanent garrison to the town in the 1860s created a whole new set of customers in the form of soldiers, mostly unmarried and with little to do with their spare time other than take a stroll into town for a pint or two. Gradually, as the town's population grew, so did the number of pubs.

The population levels shown here were taken from the ten yearly census returns and show the effect of the town's increase in population at this time. The first figure excludes the occupants of the garrison and the latter figure includes the men (and women) from the garrison.

year	population excl. garrison	population incl. garrison
1801	11520	
1811	12544	
1821	14016	
1831	16167	
1841	17790	17790
1851	19443	19490
1861	20781	23890
1871	22867	26446
1881	25748	28683
1891	30827	34749
1901	34452	38500
1911		43470

### Trade Directory and Licensing/Brewster Session Analysis - 1823 to 1933

A study of various trade directories and newspaper reports, revealed the following numbers of licensed premises.

			a	b
1823	75 taverns and public houses	=	75	187
1827	70 public houses	=	70	214
1832	72 taverns and public houses + 20 retailers of beer	=	92	176
1848	90 hotels, inns and taverns + 23 beerhouses	=	113	168
1863	90 hotels, inns and taverns + 46 beerhouses	=	136	153
1878	94 public houses, including hotels, inns and taverns + 56 beer retailers	=	150*	167
1902	88 public houses + 59 beer retailers	=	147*	262
1912	98 public houses + 28 beerhouses	=	126	345
1933	88 public houses + 25 beerhouses	=	113	430

It is difficult to compare these figures with modern day licences, as there are so many licensed restaurants and shops. However, the following figures are based on those premises that the author considers being comparable to the older concept of a public or beer house.

1995	71 public houses (only 51 in 2012)	+ 12 wine bars	=	83	600
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where:

- a - total number of 'on' licences
- b - approximate number of people per 'on' licence
- \* - includes 'off' licences

These are not official figures and are intended as a guide only and to show how the number of pubs per head of population has dramatically declined over the past two centuries. It would be very difficult to provide statistics for 2007 as so many licences were in existence then. The number of public houses had fallen to around 58 but the number of bars was considerably more than the 12 wine bars shown for 1995. This is as clear a demonstration of the decline of traditional public houses in the town as there could be.

The following information was extracted from newspaper reports.

On **Licensing Day for 1839**<sup>1</sup>, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, at Colchester Castle, it was stated that, 'the publicans and inn keepers of the district had their respective licenses renewed, there not being a single complaint or objection to any of them'.

On **Licensing Day for 1852 and 1853**, there had been no complaints so all licences were renewed.

On **Licensing Day, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1855**<sup>2</sup> all licences were issued without a single complaint.

On **Licensing Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1859**<sup>3</sup> all except a few of the old licences were renewed. All of the new applications were refused.

On **Licensing Day, 5<sup>th</sup> September 1863**<sup>4</sup> there were 103 public house licences granted, with only 4 complaints against them. It was noted that an even greater number of applications for new licences were made, many, no doubt, influenced by the anticipated speedy occupation of the new barracks.

On **Licensing Day, 29<sup>th</sup> August 1867**<sup>5</sup>, the business started late on account of the magistrates meeting beforehand to discuss two memorials that had been received. One, was worded as follows:

My Dear Sir,

The Clergy of the Borough who have recently attended a Ruridecanal meeting at my house have requested me to express to you and to your brother magistrates their anxious hope that some special effort be made to check the progress of immorality which appears to have developed itself in the town within the last few years.

They desire me more especially to direct your attention to the lamentable increase of prostitution, and to the facilities which, in their belief, are afforded to this particular vice in some of the publichouses and beerhouses, and in lodgings adjacent to them, which are, in fact, appendages to such houses.

They earnestly beg you to cause enquiries to be made into this allegation before the next licensing day, and in the event of its being established, to withhold licences from houses in which such shameful practices have been encouraged, or connived at; and while they venture to express an opinion that the number of publichouses, in some parts of the town, is at present out of all proportion to the population, they take the liberty of begging you not to grant new licences in these districts; or if in any case it

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<sup>1</sup> IJ - 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1839

<sup>2</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1855

<sup>3</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 9<sup>th</sup> Sep 1859

<sup>4</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1863

<sup>5</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 1867



seems to you to be desirable that a new licence should be granted, to satisfy yourselves that the applicant can be trusted to discountenance such demoralising practices.

With every sentiment of respect to yourself and your brother magistrates,

I am, my dear Sir, faithfully yours,

Lewis W Owen, Rural Dean.

A similar, but much shorter, letter had been sent by the non-conformists. There can be no doubt that these clear statements of what was happening in Colchester concentrated the minds of the magistrates somewhat. They certainly swung into action, supported by evidence gathered by the police. There can be no doubting that the new barracks were responsible for this changing tide in morality in the town. Wherever there was a camp with soldiers, there would inevitably be camp followers. It would be hard to argue that this trend was for the good of the town, even by today's liberal attitudes.

It was stated that there were 114 (or 116) licensed houses for the wants of 25,000 people - and 52 beerhouses, at that time.

On Licensing Day, 25<sup>th</sup> August 1870<sup>1</sup>, the business mainly involved the requirements of the new Beerhouse Act, whereby beerhouse certificates could only be obtained at the special annual licensing meeting. The fee for these certificates was revised to 5 shillings instead of the previous 7s 6d. No statistics were recorded.

Here follows a Brewster Session extract from 1900.

<p><b>BREWSTER SESSIONS AT COLCHESTER.</b></p> <p><b>TECHNICAL OBJECTION TO NEW APPLICATIONS.</b></p> <p><b>THE CASE OF THE MARLBOROUGH.</b></p> <p>The annual Brewster Session for the Borough of Colchester was held on Thursday, the Magistrates present being the Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Sanders), W. Butcher, H. Laver, C. H. T. Marshall, Wilson Marriage, and Asher Prior, Esqs. There was, as usual, a large attendance of licence holders to renew their licences, and also of other persons interested in applications to be made for new licences.</p> <p>At the outset the Deputy-Mayor enquired of the Clerk (Mr. E. C. Denton) whether any reply had been received from owners of licensed property to the resolution passed by the licensing justices at their last meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk said he had received the following letter:-</p> <p>Gentlemen,-- The under-mentioned brewers of this town take this opportunity of stating that the pronouncement of the Justices at the last annual Brewster Sessions, and also the circular issued by their Clerk on the 25th ultimo, have engaged their attention at several meetings which they have had, and they venture to hope that the various applications for removal of licences which have been and are to be made will indicate to the Justices their desire to carry out the suggestions made last year.</p> <p><b>THE COLCHESTER BREWING CO., LTD.,</b>  <b>Arthur O. Stopes, Managing Director.;</b>  <b>DANIEL &amp; SONS' BREWERS, LTD.,</b>  <b>Thos. B. Daniell, Managing Director;</b>  <b>CHARRINGTON NICHOLL &amp; CO.,</b>  <b>C. H. Sainsford, Manager;</b>  <b>TRUMAN, HANBURY, BUCKTON &amp; CO.,</b>  <b>T. F. Reeve, Secretary.</b></p> <p><b>THE POLICE REPORT.</b></p> <p>The Chief Constable (Mr. R. O. Coombs) then presented his annual report as follows:-</p> <p>To the Licensing Justices of the Borough of Colchester.</p>	<p>Gentlemen,--I beg to report that there are 188 licensed houses in the borough, being one full licence less than last year. A new licence was granted to the Recreation Hotel, Military Road, at the last Adjourned Annual Licensing Session, and the licences of the Roman Urn, Roman Road, and the Three Horse Shoes, Hythe Quay, have been surrendered in consequence, as agreed to by Messrs. Charrington Nicholl and Co. There are now 111 full licences, 43 for the consumption of beer "on," and 34 "off" licences. Assuming the population to be 41,000, this represents one licence to every 218 persons.</p> <p>The Colchester Brewing Company have given notice of their intention to apply this day for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the full licence of the White Hart Inn, Crouch Street, to a house about to be constructed upon an estate at the north-west side of the Maldon Road, near to its junction with Drury Lane.</p> <p>The same Company also apply for a provisional grant for the sale of intoxicating liquors in respect of a certain house proposed to be erected at the north side of the London Road, Lexden.</p> <p>The Company will further apply for a similar grant in respect of a house proposed to be built at the west side of the Mersea Road, near Cookwatch Farm.</p> <p>Mr. Henry John Gummer, Wine and Spirit Merchant, of Head Street, has given notice of his intention to apply for an additional licence to sell beer by retail, to be consumed "off" his premises.</p> <p>Mr. Adolphus Sheffield, of 157, Commercial Street, Shoreditch, secretary to Messrs. Daniel Melia and Co. Ltd., has given notice of his intention to apply for a wine licence (off) and a spirit licence (off) for a shop situated at Long Wyre Street, now in the occupation of Messrs. Daniel Melia and Co., Ltd., Grocers.</p> <p>During the past year (ending 22nd inst.) four informations have been preferred by me against Licensed Victuallers for permitting drunkenness upon their premises. In two cases fines and costs were inflicted.</p> <p>Three charges against beerhouse keepers have also been investigated by the Bench, viz:-two for permitting drunkenness, and one for selling intoxicants to a drunken person. Fines and costs were inflicted in two of these cases, and the other was withdrawn by the police.</p>	<p>In two or three instances tenants of licensed houses have had notice to quit by the owners, in consequence of the police complaining of the unsatisfactory manner in which the said houses were being conducted.</p> <p>It is a matter of regret that it has been found necessary, during the past four years, to bring 15 licence holders before the Justices for permitting drunkenness or serving drunken persons, and I hope that next Annual Licensing Day the report will show that more respect has been paid to Section 13 of the Act of 1872.</p> <p>There have been six more persons prosecuted for drunkenness this year than last, the actual number being 63, viz:-51 males and 12 females. Of these 57 were convicted and six discharged. Of the persons proceeded against, 11 were strangers, 15 were soldiers, and 37 residents of the town. The number of drunkards proceeded against during the previous 19 years averaged 70.6 per annum.</p> <p>I have not yet received the blue book, "Judicial Statistics of Crime," this year, and I am, therefore, unable to make comparisons as to the proceedings for drunkenness in various boroughs in England and Wales, but it may be remembered that last year's blue book placed Colchester in a very favourable position, as compared with towns of from 20,000 to 60,000 inhabitants, and having regard to the increased population of the borough, and notwithstanding the slight increase of prosecutions, I feel sure Colchester has maintained its place for sobriety and good reputation.</p> <p>From the absence of police reports and the observation continually kept with a view to detecting offences against closing regulations on Sundays and other days, I assume that very few licence-holders neglect to see their houses closed at the proper time, and keep them closed.</p> <p>There is no police opposition to the renewals of any of the licences this year. Making some little allowance for the increased trade in some of the houses patronised by the military, and for the difficulty there has been in conducting these places satisfactorily, owing to the effects of the war, I feel that, on the whole, licensed victuallers and others have striven to comply with the law, and have succeeded fairly well.</p> <p>I am, gentlemen,  Your obedient servant,  <b>R. O. COOMBS,</b>  Chief Constable.</p>
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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1870

## Licensing in 1913

In 1913<sup>1</sup>, the Essex County Standard covered the Colchester Brewster Sessions, where it was reported that there were:

98 licensed victuallers  
28 beer house keepers  
29 shop keepers licensed to sell beers, wines, spirits

A total of 155, or one licence to every 280 inhabitants (i.e. a total population of 43,400 persons). During the year the police recorded 2,065 visits to licensed premises and, although the conduct had generally been good, it had been necessary to proceed against three houses and several licensees had been warned respecting the class of woman frequenting their licensed premises.

The proceedings for drunkenness during the year numbered 58 as against 52 in 1911. It referred to the expunging of licences of 10 public houses and 12 beer houses since the Compensation Authority Act came into effect.

The Reverend C Triffit Ward applied for permission to speak on behalf of the following societies:

the Colchester Temperance Vigilance Association  
the Colchester and District Band of Hope Union  
the Sons of Temperance  
the British Women's Temperance Association  
the Young Abstiners' Union

His application was opposed by solicitor, Mr H W Jones, on behalf of the Colchester Brewer's and Licensed Victualler's Association, stating that it was setting a precedent and that it was directly contrary to the Licensing Act. This objection was overruled. Mr Jones said that he would bow to the Justice's ruling but that he expected they would have the Suffragettes or Mormons there directly (with laughter from those present.)

The clergyman said that, in the opinion of those whom he represented, drinking facilities in Colchester were in excess of the legitimate needs of the population. Mr Jones protested, saying that he could bring 9 out of 10 of the inhabitants to repudiate it and that although there were 25 to 30 public houses less than there were, every year they say there are too many. The same would be said were there only one.

The clergyman introduced statistics, comparing Colchester with West Ham and with Cardiff. He asked for a reduction in licences granted, especially in the side streets, 'for there it was that so much evil was being wrought.' Mr Jones challenged his figures, and that in comparing Colchester and West Ham, he had omitted to compare the drunkenness of the two places, which was the most important thing of all.

In connection with an application with respect to removal of the licence of the British Hotel, he went on to say that his client, Messrs Daniell and Sons, had lost 24 houses since the Act came into force, three more were already referred and five more were nominated in the list published that day. During the last ten years, notwithstanding the increase of population, 27 licensed houses had gone in the Borough, and statistics showed that referring houses was not a remedy for drunkenness. In 1891 there was one licence for every 221 inhabitants in the Borough and 1912 there was one licence for every 345 inhabitants, including the Refreshment Rooms at North Station. At Chelmsford they had one for every 248 persons, in the Tendring Division there was one for every 274 persons and in the Lexden and Winstree Division, there was one for every 230 persons. These figures only concerned 'on' licences.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1913

### Licensing in 1933

In 1933<sup>1</sup>, the Essex County Standard reported the annual licensing meeting whereby a substantial decrease in the number of persons who were proceeded against for drunkenness. The numbers of persons proceeded against for drunkenness were:

45	proceeded against with 19 convictions, compared to,
75	proceeded against with 24 convictions, in 1931 and
117	proceeded against with 48 convictions, in 1930.

There had been four deaths of licensees, two retired due to ill health and twenty applications for transfers.

It also reported that there were:

88	fully licensed houses
25	beer houses (on)
29	beer houses (off) which included greengrocers

This meant that there was one licensed house for every 342 persons, according to the 1931 census.

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### Licensing in 1964

In 1964<sup>2</sup>, the newspapers reported that there were no complaints about the town's pubs, according to the police. The Brewster Sessions allowed all 131 licensed premises in the town to carry on uninterrupted. It was stated that the town had an average of 644 persons to each 'On' licence and 497 persons to each 'On' and 'Off' licence. There were 47 convictions for drunk and disorderly behaviour and simple drunkenness. There were 1137 visits made by the police to licensed premises and, on all occasions, reported the Superintendent, 'The police were always received with courtesy'.

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### Weights and Measures and the Drinking Vessel

We take it for granted now that when we go to the pub and ask for a pint of ale, we actually get a pint of ale. Successive governments have controlled weights and measures with the full force of the law, on the basis of both protecting the purchaser of ale against fraud and, more importantly perhaps, so that the government can extract the correct amount of tax from the purveyor of the ale.

Britain has steadfastly resisted the influence of a Europe that uses metric fluid measures of litres. Whilst we have been forced to buy our sausages by the kilogram and our petrol by the litre, we still drive our cars on roads marked in miles and yards and we still buy our beer in pints; although our wine comes in centilitres. The British are an obstinate people, most likely attributable to us living on an island, separated from those 'foreign chappies' across the water.

Taking a look at our drinking vessels over the centuries, we are completely 'at home' with the pint glass when drinking our beer. The capacity mark of the 'pint', is to be found on every one of the glasses that we see in our public houses today. However, this is only a fairly recent occurrence. Drinking vessels made of glass became popular around 100 years ago. Before that, the lead based metal known as pewter was used for the vessels; a material that had been in common use for at least 400 years before that, to at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Before that, simple folk would have been used to mugs of pottery, wood, horn, leather, etc. Only the wealthy would have been able to afford pewter, silver or gold. Glass drinking vessels were with us in the Roman period, 2000 or so years ago, but the glassmakers art was lost with the coming of the Dark Ages and glass was not to be used again for many centuries. It was simply too difficult and expensive to produce.

The illustrations show various drinking vessels through the ages, ranging from leather 'jacks', to earthenware pots, to various glass mugs or glasses.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1933

<sup>2</sup> CE - 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 1964

 <p>A pair of leather 'jacks' lined with pitch to make them water tight. These would have been common in the Elizabethan period.</p>	 <p>An earthenware mug typical throughout the medieval period</p>	 <p>A pewter half pint mug of the late Victorian period</p>
 <p>Typical 1920s fluted mugs</p>	 <p>Typical 1930s straight sided glasses</p>	 <p>The dimpled mug of the 1960s and later period</p>
 <p>Assorted glasses in modern day usage</p>	 <p>The nonic glass</p>	 <p>...and, of course, the Nigerian Lager glass</p>

Although the Magna Carta of 1215 set down certain measures for ale, wine, corn, cloth, etc, the imperial standard that we have grown up with, known as the pint, was introduced in 1826. Pewter mugs that were in common use at that time carried a verification mark to indicate that the measure has been officially inspected and the capacity found to be correct. Every pub glass that you will use today will have just such a verification mark.

Most towns or cities had their own inspection mark of various styles. During the 19th century this gradually changed and a uniform style was introduced consisting of a crown, the monarchs initials (i.e. VR –Queen Victoria) and a number which denoted the location (e.g. 6 is Birmingham, 207 is the Borough of Colchester, etc.). These punched inspection marks are usually found on the upper rim, together with a mark of the quantity that they hold. Our pewter example is a half pint mug stamped only once with 207 and inscribed 'H M Bugle Horn'. This translates as being during the tenure of Harry Murrell around 1890. There is a similar illustration of a pewter mug from the Dragoon, in Chapter 5.



**MOOT HALL, COLCHESTER.**  
**Monday, November 14.**  
 Before the Mayor, H. Vint, Esq., R. M. Savill, Esq., & P. Havens, Esq.

**Mr. George Hearne, of the Blue Boar public-house,** West Stockwell Street, was summoned for having in his possession 1 quart mug, 4 pint ditto, and 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint ditto, all of which were deficient. Defendant, after pleading guilty to having the mugs in his possession, said he was put into the house in August last to sell by commission, and a number of mugs were handed over to him, which, from their being for the most part stamped, and the house having been previously held by an experienced publican, he had reason to believe were correct. He considered it a hardship to be made the innocent victim of another person's fault, for he could assure the Bench there was no intention on his part to commit a fraud.

The Mayor asked the amount of the deficiency?

Mr. Housie said it was not so easy to ascertain the exact deficiency of measures as in the case of weights, but these mugs were so deficient that he considered it his duty to take them away. He should earnestly recommend all publicans to take care that their mugs were in good order, because a mug which was correct in August might not be so the next month, as a very slight pressure upon the bottoms of pewter vessels would make them deficient. He thought that this case had arisen from ignorance; but with regard to measures generally, he must say that till within the last fortnight publicans had not only neglected to have their measures properly stamped, but had set him (the inspector) at defiance. In the course of his last inspection he found many unstamped mugs, but as, from their being correct in measure, the public had not been defrauded, he did not take them away, but merely directed the parties to have them stamped; and he hoped that this warning would be attended to.

The Mayor said he felt bound to thank Mr. Housie for the considerate manner in which he had brought these cases forward, and for the explanations he had given. These proceedings would be made known through the medium of the public press; and if parties after the information now given should be brought before the Court under similar circumstances they must not expect that much lenity would be shown them. With regard to the present case, as it appeared to be the result of ignorance, the Court would not inflict a severe penalty, but would only fine defendant 1s., and the expenses 11s.

Inspections were often undertaken several times during the life of a pewter measure thus it could have more than one mark. Sometimes the marks show a travelled life of the vessel. But what about the glass bottomed pewter tankard? Does anybody really know the answer to why this was done? Was it to check the clarity of the beer? Was it to see a coin that might have been slipped in to the vessel by a recruiting soldier whereby a sip taken sealed your fate as a recruited or pressed man? Or could it have been to deter the drinker from banging the mug on the table to attract attention or beat out a tune, thus resulting in the landlord possibly falling foul of the weights and measures inspectors due to a misshapen and therefore incorrect capacity tankard? Nobody, it seems, now knows the answer.

The illustration was taken from a local newspaper from 1842, and details court proceedings from just one of the many cases that were heard, concerning deficient measures of these pewter measures. George Hearne of the Blue Boar got off lightly.

But what is known is that the pewter tankard was phased out in favour of glass around the year 1900. There were various reasons for this change as follows. Landlords were naturally suspicious of their

staff, especially barmaids serving their boyfriends. The concern was that a half pint could be called for in a nearly empty pint tankard. With the pewter tankard, it could not be seen from a distance, how much was being given. With a glass vessel, the amount was easy to see. Glass was becoming cheaper to produce as a material and mass production was easier than a pewter vessel. Glass did not distort in shape, so the actual measure was guaranteed and the landlord safe from accusations of short measures. Also, of course, glass was more hygienic and dirtiness more evident.

The style of 'glass' as it has become known, has altered quite a bit over the past century. The usual sort of glass that was used in Colchester pubs was a handle-less sloping-sided, straight glass as pictured. The illustrated glass has a George V stamp. Around 1928 the 10-sided fluted handled glass mug came in. The dimpled mug arrived about 1948, and seems to have replaced the 10 sided version. We went through a period when you often heard for a pint to be served in a 'straight glass' or in a 'mug'. Then came the 'nonic' glass, a straight glass with a bulge, designed to protect the rim against damage during washing. More recently, in the last 20 years or so, the dimpled mug seems to have died out and beer is served in a variety of designs according to the type of beer served. The 'tulip' shaped glass for lagers, the old style straight glass for ale, a slightly waisted straight glass for Guinness, etc. The range has been further enlarged through the use of branded and nucleated beer glasses. Where will it all end?

### Drinking Statistics - 1990

The Morning Advertiser in 1990 noted various statistics for Colchester, compared with the rest of the country. The exercise was carried out as a guide for prospective licensees who might be considering taking a pub in the town.

	Colchester	National Average
Consumption - Pints per Week		
Men.....	6.65	8.84
Women.....	0.40	0.67
Consumption - Volume by Type of Beer		
Bitter.....	17.7%	27.0%
Lager.....	69.6%	54.6%
Consumption - Volume by Sex		
Men.....	92.8	91.2%
Women.....	7.2	8.8%



This showed that Colcestrians drank less beer than the national average, that lager was by far the most popular type of beer, and with women making up a small proportion of beer drinkers. What would today's statistics reveal?

It gave the size of the working population of the town as being in the region of 106,000 people.

Since around 1900, the number of 'on' licences has been falling, whilst the population of the town has steadily increased. In 1995, we calculated that there was one pub type licence to approximately every 600 inhabitants, with these licences being shared by pubs, clubs, hotels, wine bars, restaurants, etc. With this trend, we have seen the steady decline in the pub trade, a decline that still continues today to the great concern of publicans.

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### Licensing in more recent times.

Today, our drinking habits are still governed by the clock, although nowhere near as bad as they were up to 1995. Visitors to our country had been accustomed to finding patches of drought in our otherwise damp country - in our pubs. Apart from a short dry spell some five centuries ago, when alehouses were shut to get men back to archery practice, the English tradition had been to have a drink more or less when they felt like it.

From the 19th to early 20th century licensing hours were gradually imposed, with blanket restrictions being applied throughout the country during World War One (The Defence of the Realm Act, 1914). These restrictions stipulated that a pub could only open between 12pm and 2.40pm, and 6.30pm to 9.30pm. These laws were intended to stop soldiers and munitions workers from getting overly merry, thus enhancing their working performance, and contributing to the general war effort. These laws were relaxed over recent years, allowing pubs to remain open until 11pm from Monday to Saturday, and 10.30pm on a Sunday. Extensions to these licensing laws were occasionally granted, in certain cases.

So, with the government of the day, suspecting that the charms of the pub were greater than those of the munitions factories, imposed time limits on when alcoholic drink could be sold. The weapons were made, the war won, peace arrived - and the restrictions stayed. The exceptions were that the bar in the House of Commons stayed open all hours, drink could be purchased from Tesco, the means to make the stuff could be purchased from Boots the Chemist and restaurants and private clubs could carry on serving drink as they saw fit. It was only the poor old pub, whose business it was to sell drink, which was restricted. That is how it had been for all those years, until recently!

The first edition of this book was published in 1995, the year when licensing hours on Sunday were relaxed and the country went officially metric. The pint of beer becoming 450 cubic centimetres (although still known as a pint) and the changed Sunday hours caused total confusion amongst drinkers who had become accustomed to having an imperial drink or two of a Sunday dinner time and then, after the bell was rung, happily wandering home for their traditional Sunday dinner, followed by a snooze in the armchair. All of a sudden, there was no bell - they did not have to go home. The beer kept flowing. The landlord had a smile on his face. Single men stayed on - and married or family men felt they were missing out if they did not stay on too!

Quite a few other changes have been made to licensing laws in more recent times. Beginning with the Supply of Beer (Tied Estate) Order 1989, the government of the day attempted to control the perceived unfair practice of large brewery companies controlling the majority of public houses across the country, forcing their product on their tied publicans and their inflated prices on the public in general. The new law stated that:

Every brewer who before 1st November 1992 holds interests in more than two thousand licensed premises shall do all such things as may be necessary to secure that on that date either—

- (a) he is no longer a brewer, or
- (b) he no longer holds interests in more than two thousand licensed premises, or
- (c) the provisions of the Schedule to this Order are satisfied with respect to him.

It aimed to bring about a re-structuring of the industry to weaken the ties between pub owning brewers and public houses, by limiting the number of pubs that a brewer could own, to 2000. The six major brewers that it was targeting were Allied Lyons, Bass, Courage, Grand Metropolitan, Scottish & Newcastle (S & N) and Whitbread. These six controlled 75% of the market at that time. It hoped that, by so doing, the Act would encourage smaller breweries to grow and for the customer to enjoy a greater range of beers. It would also allow tied publicans to offer one guest beer from another brewer. However, within a decade, the brewers had found ways around the Act by making arrangements with independent property companies, who bought the pubs from the brewers with a tied arrangement to buy their beer from the brewers. In turn they passed on this beer-tie to tenants of their pubs. These new companies became known as 'pubcos'. The aim of the Beer Orders to lower retail prices and increase consumer choice had failed and was revoked in 2002, in part because the consumer had not demanded 'real-ales' as expected, with nitrogen fed (nitro-keg) keg beers being far more popular at that time.

By 2011 there were around 25,000 pubs across the UK which were run by tenants tied to the major 'pubcos', which included: Admiral Taverns Ltd, Enterprise Inns, Fuller Smith & Turner, Greene King, Marston's, Punch Pub Company, S&N Pub Enterprises and Young's. The tenants were obliged to buy some or all drinks that they sell in their pubs, from the pubcos, at the high pubco prices. The 'beer-tie' imposed on tenants made their pubs expensive places to drink in, but with supermarkets able to sell beer at a fraction of the cost and the free-of-tie 'free houses' able to buy and sell their beer at lower prices than their tied contemporaries. This unfair situation leaves many tenants unable to make a proper living and is resulting in many of our pub closures. In 2012, calls were being made for a further 'Beer Orders' Act to be applied to pubcos.

Then, having dealt badly with the brewer's monopoly, the 'nanny state' turned its attention to licensing generally, to bring us more into line with Europe. The Licensing Act 2003 brought about the loss of the old time landlord, through their replacement by DPSs (designated premises supervisors), together with very relaxed attitudes to hours of opening (and toleration of drunkenness) and a withdrawal of old-style court's backed police activity. This move from licensing by the magistrates to licensing by the local council, combined with the perceived '24 hours, open all hours' policy, created a situation where drunkenness on our streets reached a disgusting and thoroughly anti-social level. Far from reducing binge drinking, it increased it. It deterred visitors and locals alike from going out at night and gave Colchester, in particular, a reputation as one of Britain's 'hardest drinking towns'<sup>1</sup> (a television company made us the subject of a special documentary, such was our reputation). In Colchester, at least, the borough council buried its collective heads in the sand and did nothing about the problems that it had caused.

A further nail in the coffin came when the 'nanny-state' decided on a course of action to protect us, the customer, from ourselves. It saw fit to pass laws that ensured the pubs continuing demise. Leaving aside the effects of the breathalyser, the anti-smoking laws did irreparable damage to our pubs, as a result of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2006. It forced smokers to go elsewhere – often home with a pack of cheap beer from the supermarket.

An unofficial survey of DPSs in 2011/12 gave an overwhelming view that the smoking ban had affected business. Pub tenants and owners responded to this latest law by creating 'smoking shelters' outside their premises, havens for smokers to use to satisfy their addiction to tobacco. All manner of designs were to be seen ranging from polythene sheet fixed to timber frame shacks, to quite elaborate affairs with proper tiled roofs and pergola sides. (A study of these would make an interesting project for somebody with a little spare time.) It became normal to see people smoking outside their places of work - because this law not only affected pubs, but all places of work.

As to the general decline in pub numbers, in 2012 we were losing around 28 pubs per week across the country. National figures show the following trend:

Year	Number of pubs in Britain
1990	63500
1995	61000
2000	60800
2005	58600
2010	52000

Of course breweries were in the business of selling beer, whereas pubcos were in the business of making money. If the land was suitable, they often closed a pub in order to build houses. It seems that they often put in unsuitable tenants that could be guaranteed to run a pub down and make it unpopular, thus justifying its closure.

Research in 2007 showed that there was a general fear by normal townsfolk of going into the town centre in the evening. Now, in 2012, Colchester town centre of an evening still appears to be under the control of drunken yobs; an inevitable product of our licensing laws and a steadily increasing number of licensed premises in the town (over 600 licences granted), a police force who are prevented from doing their jobs properly by our politically correct government and an apparent change of moral standards and drinking practice in people generally. We even had an SOS bus to pander to our bingeing youth.

Without a doubt, the old-time magistrates would have closed down most of the present-day town centre bars (not pubs) that seem to specialise in getting people drunk very quickly, before turning them out on the streets to cause further mayhem, vomiting, urinating, fighting, shrieking from semi-clothed girls, etc.

The majority of our conventional pubs, meanwhile, have to deal with being tied to beer prices and high rents set by its 'pubco', making their profit margins very small and their beer expensive. The 'pubcos' and large chains that own the bars have no such restrictive practices to deal with and can easily dictate the terms of trade with their suppliers.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

Whether this trend will be reversed in years to come, we shall have to wait and see how our political leaders respond. As we go to print, the beer-tie and pubcos generally are very much in the political eye.

We have clearly failed to learn from history. The Beerhouse Act of 1830 was introduced to encourage the drinking of beer rather than spirits. It has taken us a little under 200 years to return to a similar situation where gin has been replaced with vodka and 'alcopops', having the same effect as spirits, getting the drinker very drunk, often very violent, in a very short space of time. History will judge us.

*"Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it" – Sir Winston Churchill*

### Colchester Pubs 1764 to 1819 (1831)

This is a list of the inns and taverns that were licensed by the Borough of Colchester from 1764 through until 1819. There are 134 in total, of which, in 2015, only 10 are still public houses with the same name (shown highlighted.) Also shown are the 81 Publican's Licenses shown in the Essex Standard for 1831.

Admiral Nelson's Head	St Martin	1799 only	
Anchor	Magdalen Street	1764 - 1819	
Anchor	St Martin	1764 - 1790?	
Angel	West Stockwell Street	1804 - 1819	1831 St Runwalds
Bear Inn	East Stockwell Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Nicholas
Bell	St Botolph	1764 - 1810?	1831
Bell	St Giles	1764 - 1819	1831
Bishop Blaize Inn	West Stockwell Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Martins
Black Boy Inn	Vineyard Street	1783 - 1819	
Blue Boar Inn	West Stockwell Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Runwalds
Blue Posts Inn	St Botolph	1808 - 1819	1831 St Giles
<b>Brewer's Arms</b>	Osborne Street	1805 - 1819	1831 Holy Trinity
Bricklayer's Arms	St James	1781 - 1819	1831
Bugle Horn	Barrack Street	1800 - 1819	1831
<b>Bull</b>	St Mary at the Walls	1770 - 1819	1831
Bull	St Peter	1764 only	
Canteen	St James	1797 - 1810?	
<b>Castle</b>	All Saints	1764 - 1819	
Castle	St Peter	1764 - 1819	1831
Chaise and Horses	North Hill	1785 only	
Chaise and Pair	9 North Hill	1786 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Chequers Inn	Lexden	1764 - 1819	1831
Chequers	St Giles	1764 - 1790?	
Coach and Horses	North Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Cock	Trinity	1764 - 1775	
Cock and Blackbirds	St Peter	1764 - 1790?	
Cock and Crown	North Street	1798 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Cock and Pie	North Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Cock and Pie	St Botolph	1764 - 1771	
Colchester Arms	Magdalen Street	1798 - 1819	1831 St Mary Magdalen
Compasses	St James	1764 only?	
Cooper's Arms Inn	St Giles	1771 - 1780?	
Cross	St Giles	1770 - 1819	
Cross Keys	Culver Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Nicholas
Crown	St James	1764 - 1790?	
Crown	St Peter	1764 only	
Crown and Punch Bowl	East Street	1799 - 1819	1831 St James
Crown and Sceptre	South Street	1764 - 1780?	
Crown and Shears	St Giles	1764 - 1780?	
<b>Dog and Pheasant</b>	Mile End	1811 - 1819	1831 St Michael (Dog and Partridge)
Dolphin	Hythe Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St Leonards
Duke of Marlborough's Head	St Botolph's Street	1770 - 1790?	
Duke of Wellington	Magdalen Street	1817 - 1819	
Duke of York	Barrack Street	1796 - 1819	1831
Duncans Head Inn	Head Street	1798 - 1819	1831 St Mary at the Walls
Evening Gun	St Mary Magdalen	1799 - 1819	

Fencers	Maidenburgh Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Nicholas
Fleece	Head Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Mary at the Walls
Flower de Luce	Trinity	1764 - 1780?	
Fox and Fiddle		1764 - 1770?	
Fox and Hounds	St Botolph's Street	1785 - 1819	1831
French Horn Inn	North Hill	1774 - 1780?	
<b>George Hotel</b>	High Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Nicholas
<b>Goat and Boot Inn</b>	East Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St James
Goat's Heads	St Leonard	1764 - 1819	
Golden Cann	St James	1775 - 1780?	
Golden Lyon	High Street	1780 only?	
Green Man	St James	1764 - 1770?	
Greyhound	St Botolph's Street	1764 - 1819	1831
Griffin	Culver Street	1764 - 1819	
Half Moon	St Peter	1768 - 1790?	
Harrow	St Giles	1799 - 1810?	
Horse and Groom	Crouch Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Mary at the Walls
Horseshoes	Hythe	1770 - 1819	1831 St Leonards
Joiner's Arms Inn	Trinity Street	1776 - 1819	1831
King's Arms	St Peter	1764 only	
King's Arms	Lexden	1764 - 1780?	
<b>King's Arms</b>	St Mary at the Walls	1787 - 1819	1831
King's Head	Lexden Hill	1772 - 1819	1831 Lexden
King's Head	Balkerne Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St Peters
King of Prussia	St Peter	1764 only	
Lamb Inn	High Street	1779 - 1819	1831 St Runwalds
<b>Leather Bottle</b>	Lexden	1811 - 1819	1831
Lion and Crown	Trinity	1764 - 1790?	
Mariners	Magdalen Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Mary Magdalen
Marlborough Head	St Botolph's Street	1764 - 1819	1831
<b>Marquis of Granby</b>	North Hill	1770 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Mitre	East Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St James
Nelson's Head	West Stockwell Street	1799 - 1819	1831 St Martins
Neptune	Hythe	1818 - 1819	1831
Noah's Ark	Head Street	1764 - 1790?	
Ordnance Arms	Hythe	1804 - 1819	1831 St Leonards
Packet	East Street	1764 - 1770?	
Packet	St Leonard	1780 - 1819	1831
Pigg	St Botolph	1764 - 1780?	
Pinnacles	St Giles	1764 only	
Plough	St Botolph	1764 - 1819	1831
Plough	St Mary at the Walls	1764 - 1770?	
Prince of Wales	Military Road	1789 - 1819	1831
Queen's Head	Hythe Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St Leonards
Queen's Head	St Giles	1764 - 1770?	
Red Cow	North Street	1764 - 1780?	
Red Cow	St James	1792 - 1819	1831
Red Lion	Trinity	1770 only	
Red Lion	High Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Nicholas
Rising Sun	Hythe Station	1789 - 1819	
Rising Sun	Lexden	1788 - 1790	
<b>Rose and Crown</b>	East Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St James
Rose and Crown	Vineyard Street	1764 - 1790?	
Royal Oak	East Stockwell Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Martins
Sailor and Ball	Maldon Road	1764 - 1819	
Sawyer's Arms	Magdalen Street	1790 - 1819	
Sea Horse	All Saints	1770 - 1819	
Ship (East Bay)	St James	1764 - 1788	
Ship (East Hill)	St James	1764 - 1819	1831
Ship Inn	Headgate	1764 - 1819	1831 St Mary at the Walls
Shoulder of Mutton	High Street	1764 - 1778	
Spread Eagle	Mile End	1764 - 1810	
Stars and Key	St Peter	1764 - 1767	
Star and Anchor Inn	Stanwell Street	1770 - 1819	1831 St Giles

## The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester

Star and Garter Inn	East Hill	1789 – 1819	1831 St James
Sun Inn	Lexden	1764 - 1819	1831
Sun	Maidenburgh Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Nicholas
Swan	High Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Nicholas
Swan	Hythe Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St Leonards
Tailor's Arms Inn	Eld Lane	1764 – 1819	1831
Talbot Dog	St Botolph	1764 only	
Three Cups	High Street	1764 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Three Horse Shoes	Hythe Quay	1764 only	
Two Brewers	St Mary Magdalen	1788 - 1790?	
Two Sawyers	St Botolph	1791 - 1802	
Unicorn	St Nicholas	1764 - 1780?	
Waggon and Horses	North Hill	1764 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Waterloo	Magdalen Street	1816 – 1819	1831
Weaver's Arms	Middleborough	1799 - 1819	1831 St Peters
Whale Fishery	St James	1770 - 1780	
White Hart	High Street	1764 - 1810?	
White Hart	St Giles	1775 - 1790?	
White Horse	East Street	1780 – 1819	1831 St James
White Lion	Magdalen Street	1779 - 1819	1831 St Mary at the Walls
Woolpack	St Peter	1764 - 1770	
Woolpack	St Giles	1797 – 1819	1831
Yorkshire Grey	St Botolph	1790 - 1819	1831 St Mary Magdalen

## Colchester Pubs 1920 - 1924

The following is a list of licensed premises shown in the Borough's records dated 1920 to 1924.

Pub Name	Address		
		Duke of York	Barrack Street
		Essex Arms	Essex Street
		Fleece	Head Street
Abbey Arms	St John's Green	Flying Fox	Harwich Road
Albert Inn	North Street	Forester's Arms	Castle Road
Alma Inn	Military Road	Foundry Arms	Artillery Street
Anchor	Magdalen Street	Fountain	St Botolph
Angel	High Street	Gaiety	Mersea Road
Artillery Man	Artillery Street	George Hotel	High Street
Barley Mow	Barrack Street	Globe Hotel	North Street
Beehive	Bromley Road	Globe	Military Road
Bell	Old Heath	Goat and Boot Inn	East Hill
Berechurch Arms	Lexden	Grapes	Mersea Road
Blue Boar Hotel	Kendall Road	Greyhound	St Botolph Street
Brewer's Arms	Osborne Street	Grosvenor	Maldon Road
Brewery Tavern	Maidenburgh Street	Headgate Hotel	Headgate
Bricklayer's Arms	Bergholt Road	Horse and Groom	Crouch Street
Britannia	Berechurch Road	Hospital Arms	Crouch Street
British Grenadier	Military Road	Kings Arms	Crouch Street
Buck's Horns	Greenstead Road	Kings Head	Balkerne Hill
Bugle Horn	Barrack Street	Lamb Inn	High Street
Bull	Crouch Street	Leather Bottle	Shrub End
Cambridge Arms	Military Road	Little Crown	Short Wyre Street
Carpenter's Arms	Chapel Street	Lord Nelson	Hythe Hill
Castle	North Station Road	Maltster's Arms	Haven Road
Castle Inn	High Street	Marlborough Head	St Botolph Street
Clarence	Trinity Street	Marquis of Granby	North Hill
Clarendon Inn	East Street	Mermaid	Mersea Road
Coach and Horses	North Hill	Nelson's Head	West Stockwell Street
Cock and Pie	North Hill	Neptune	Hythe Hill
Cross Keys	Culver Street	New Dock	New Quay
Crown	Lexden Street	New Inn	Chapel Street South
Dog and Pheasant	Mile End	New Market Tavern	North Street
Dolphin	Hythe Hill	Norfolk Hotel	North Station Road
Dragoon	Butt Road	Ordnance Arms	Hythe Quay
Drury Hotel	Laver Road	Plough	St Botolph



Prince of Wales	Military Road	Sun	Maidenburgh Street
Queen's Head	Hythe Hill	Swan	High Street
Queen's Hotel	Berechurch Road	Swan	Hythe Hill
Railway Tavern	Mile End	Three Cups	High Street
Rainbow	Long Wyre Street	Three Cups Tap	Cups Yard
Recreation	Military Road	Tramway Tavern	North Station Road
Red Lion Hotel	High Street	Travellers Friend	Mile End
Rifleman	Ipswich Road	Victoria	North Street
Rising Sun	Hythe Station	Victoria Hotel	North Railway Station
Robin Hood	Osborne Street	Vine	Long Wyre Street
Rose and Crown	Vineyard Street	Waggon and Horses	North Hill
Royal Mortar	Military Road	Waterloo	Magdalen Street
Royal Oak	Harwich Road	Welcome Sailor	East Street
Royal	Butt Road	Whalebone	East Hill
Royal Standard	Mersea Road	Wheatsheaf	Barrack Street
Salisbury	Butt Road	Wheatsheaf	High Street
Sea Horse	High Street	White Horse	East Street
Ship	East Hill	William IV	Artillery Street
Six Bells	Greenstead Road	Woolpack	St Botolph
Star	Lexden Straight Road		
Stockwell Arms	West Stockwell Street		
Sun Inn	Lexden	Total - 110 pubs	

### Colchester Pubs - 2015

The following is a listing of the pubs and some other licensed premises, where a man about town could stop for a pint of ale in 2015 without the need to have a meal as part of his visit. Also given, where relevant, the companies, or individuals, that own them, either by lease or freehold. Where Free House is given, this means that the property is not tied to a single brewer's beer and therefore able to offer a wider variety of beers. It does not necessarily mean that the landlord owns the freehold.

Abbey Arms	St John's Green	
After Office Hours	High Street	
Albert	Cowdray Avenue	
Ale House	Butt Road	Adnams
Ancient Briton	Shrub End	
Artillery Man	Artillery Street	Greene King
Beehive	Bromley Road	
Berechurch Arms		
Brewer's Arms	Osborne Street	
Bricklayer's Arms	Bergholt Road	Adnams
Britannia	Berechurch Road	Greene King
British Grenadier	Military Road	Adnams
Bull Hotel	Crouch Street	
Castle	High Street	
Cherry Tree	Blackheath	
Dog and Pheasant	Mile End	Greene King
East Gate Inn	East Gates	
Fat Cat	Butt Road	Free House
Forester's Arms	Castle Road	Enterprise Inns
Foundry Arms	Artillery Street	
Fox and Fiddler	Headgate	
Friar	St Christopher Road	
George Hotel	High Street	
Goat and Boot Inn	East Hill	Greene King
Grapes	Mersea Road	Free House under Wellington Pub Company
Hole in the Wall	Balkerne Hill	
Hospital Arms	Crouch Street	Adnams
King's Arms	Crouch Street	
Leather Bottle	Shrub End	
Little Crown	Short Wyre St	Free House
Live and Let Live	Stanway	
Marquis of Granby	North Hill	Scottish and Newcastle

New Inn	Chapel Street South	
New Town Tavern	Kendall Road	Free House
Norfolk	North Station Road	Greene King
Odd One Out	Mersea Road	Parrick (Free House)
Pat Molloy's	North Hill	
Prettygate	The Commons	
Purple Dog	Trinity Street	
Quayside	Haven Road	Free House
Queen's Hotel	Berechurch Road	
Red Lion	High Street	
Rose and Crown	East Hill	Best Western
Royal Mortar	Military Road	Free House
Silver Oyster	Monkwick	Admiral Taverns
Spinnaker	Hythe Quay	Punch Taverns
Victoria	North Station Road	

Total - 46

Themes or notable features in 2015:

Hole in the Wall - Built onto 1800 year old Roman wall  
 Marquis of Granby - Medieval carvings of exceptional quality  
 Odd One Out – a 1950s time capsule  
 Rose and Crown - Restored 15th century building  
 Stockwell – Totally restored 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century building

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### The Town's Best Pubs

This book deals primarily with the history of our pubs. To comment on the relative merits of today's pubs would have little meaning if this book is consulted in 200 years to come – which it will inevitably be. There are various websites that cover the best that we have and, of course, word of mouth is always good. If you want real ale, to meet girls/boys, good food, good music, deafening music, etc. - search the internet. As we go to press, we have the likes of Facebook, Twitter, etc. In years to come, it will surely be even easier – if there are any pubs left!

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### A Calendar of Events

This section gives a calendar of events of note that we have noted from the various records that have been searched. It highlights the great number of pubs and beerhouses that were closed around the beginning and end of the last century (both 1900 and 2000).

year	premises	event
1461	Bull	3 groats in tithes paid to the Abbot of St John
1800	Bugle Horn	new licence
1863	Duncan's Head	closed
1865	Globe, Military Road	new licence
	Britannia	new licence
	Fountain	new licence
	Artillery House	new licence
	Vine	new licence
1869	Abbeygate	closed
	Crown and Anchor	closed
	Paddy's Goose	closed
1870	Grosvenor	new licence
1876	Grapes	new licence
1877	Langham	closed
	Victory, Butt Road	renamed the Royal Artillery
1878	Blue Boar Inn	burned down and licence transferred to new premises in Kendall Road
1881	Inkerman	new licence
1885	Royal Mortar (the second)	new licence
	Salisbury	new licence
1889	Three Cups Tap	new licence

1894	Anchor, Magdalen Street	renamed the Boar's Head
	Elephant and Castle	renamed the Headgate Hotel
	Locomotive	renamed the Victory
	Queen's Hotel	new licence
1897	Stag's Head	renamed the Unicorn
1899	Horseshoes	closed
	Recreation Hotel	new licence
	Roman Arms	closed
1900	Royal Oak, East Stockwell Street	closed
1901	Fencers	closed
1907	Army and Navy	closed
	Artillery Arms, Maidenburgh Street	closed
	Beehive, North Hill	closed
	Duke of Wellington	closed
	Red Cross	closed
1908	Lancer	closed
1909	British Lion, Stanwell Street	closed
	Dagmar	closed
	Joiner's Arms, East Street	closed
	Live and Let Live, Stanwell Street	closed
	Lord Raglan	closed
	Railway Tavern, Military Road	closed
	Spotted Cow	closed
	Star, Head Street	closed
1910	Boar's Head, Magdalen Street	closed
	Colchester Arms, Magdalen Street	closed
	Health and Happiness	closed
	Spread Eagle, Middleborough	closed
1911	Crown and Sceptre	closed
	Lord Cardigan	closed
1912	Unicorn	closed
	Victory, West Stockwell Street	closed
1913	Alexandra	closed
	Bell Inn, Priory Street	closed
	Chaise and Pair	closed
	Inkerman	closed
	Mariners	closed
	Rose and Crown, East Street	closed
	White Hart, Crouch Street	closed
	White Lion	closed
1914	British Inn	closed
	Drury Hotel	new licence
1916	Bath Hotel	closed
1922	Rainbow	closed
1925	Alma	closed
1932	Albert	licence transferred to new site
1935	Greyhound	closed
	Neptune	closed
	Sea Horse	closed
	Whalebone	closed
1937	Mermaid	licence transferred to next door
1939	Cock and Pie, North Hill	closed
	Dolphin	closed
1944	Vine	closed
1951	Angel	closed
1954	Maypole	new licence
	Rifleman	closed
1956	Ancient Briton	new licence
	Marlborough Head	closed
	Swan, Hythe Hill	closed
	Castle, North Street	closed
1959	Brewery Tavern	closed
	Horse and Groom	closed
	Nelson's Head	closed

	Ordnance Arms	closed
	Silver Oyster	new licence
1960	Three Cups Tap	closed
1961	King's Head	officially renamed the Hole in the Wall
1962	Essex Arms	closed
	King Coel	new licence
1963	Railway Tavern	renamed the Colchester Arms
	Gaiety	closed
1965	Cups Hotel	closed
1968	Carpenter's Arms	closed and demolished
	Centurion	new licence
	Friar	new licence
	Woolpack	closed
	Cups Hotel	demolished
1969	Plough	closed and demolished
	Rose and Crown	reopened again as a pub after 56 years
1970	Fleece	closed and demolished
1972	Barley Mow	closed
1980	Sun (Maidenburgh Street)	closed
1981	Welcome Sailor	closed
	Caledonian	closed
	Globe (Mersea Road)	closed
1982	Waterloo	closed
	Queens Head	closed
1984	Star (Straight Road)	renamed Brights
1988	Waterside	closed
1991	Six Bells	closed and demolished
1992	Centurion	closed
1993	Vito's	burned down and closed
1994	Playhouse	new licence
	Royal Standard	closed
	Piccolo Padre	closed
	Maltsters Arms	opens as a gay pub ( - but closes in 1996)
1995	Buck's Horns	closed and demolished for housing
	Squires	renamed the Old King Coel
	Traveller's Friend	closed and demolished for housing
	Rising Sun	closed
	Bakers Arms	renamed the Beer House
1996	Brights	closed and demolished for housing
1997	Royal Oak	closed
	Boadicea	renamed as the Fox and Fiddler
1998	Millennium	opens, was Piccolo Padre
	Churchills	closed
	Faunus and Firkin	a renaming of the Lamb
1999	Tap and Spile	reverts back to Hospital Arms
2000	Waggon and Horses	renamed O'Neills
2001	Millennium	closed and later destroyed by fire in 2008
	Flying Fox	closed and demolished for housing
2003	Market Tavern	closed
	Cups	closed and now a shop
2004	Globe Hotel	closed
	Bugle Horn	closed and demolished in 2008
	Salisbury Hotel	closed and later demolished for housing
	Old King Cole	closed and destined for demolition in 2008
	Grosvenor	closed
	After Office Hours	a renaming of the Faunus and Firkin
2006	Purple Dog	a renaming of the Clarence
	Fat Cat	a renaming of the Royal
2007	Pink Panther	a renaming of the Blue Boar
2008	Robin Hood	closed and became a restaurant in 2010
	Sun at Lexden	closed
	Bell at Old Heath	closed and burned down and demolished in 2010
2009	New Town Tavern	a renaming of the Pink Panther
	Stockwell Arms	closed

2010	Cambridge	closed
	Dragoon	closed
2011	The Ale House	the Dragoon re-opens with a new name
	Clarendon	closed
	Drury Arms	closed
	Crown at Lexden	closed as a pub, open as a restaurant
	Judge and Jury	a renaming of Molly Malones
2012	Maypole	closed
	Beerhouse	closed
	Judge and Jury	closed
	Pat Molloy's	a renaming of O'Neills
2013	East Gate Inn	a renaming of the Clarendon
	Stockwell	re-opens as a restaurant
	Berechurch Arms	a renaming of the Huntsman
2014	Lord Nelson	closed

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*A man goes in to a pub and orders six whiskies.  
They are lined up along the bar and he downs each one in quick succession.  
'Do you always drink whiskey that way?' enquired the barman.  
'You would drink that way if you'd got what I've got!' came the man's reply.  
'Oh dear,' said the barman, 'what have you got?'  
'10 pence,' replied the man.*

Mr Peter Grogan - tradesman of this town

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The Queen's Head in West Bergholt, date unknown but probably the 1960s.



## Chapter 4

### Owners of Colchester's Public Houses (including Brewers)

The following is an A to Z index of owners of public houses, up to around the 1990s, and a few of the known brewers who brewed beer in the town. It is not an extensive study, as owners come and go, often without record, and it does not necessarily include all of the many inn-keepers who would have brewed their own beer on the premises. It is therefore just a taster and something to add-to as time goes by.

The author has drawn from the work of Mr Ian Peaty and Mr Gerald Rickword in the compilation of this section and also from details given in the licensing records. Some details of the one-time retailing giants such as Allied, Carlsberg-Tetley, Scottish and Newcastle, Whitbread, etc. have been mentioned, although it has been seen as impossible to keep up with developments in this world of high finance and law dodging.

In the case of the brewers, a picture unfolds of take-over after take-over, the acquisition by bigger concerns of its smaller competitors, followed by them being shut down. Of course, nowadays, there are many new brewers and micro-breweries in our region, mainly due to a relaxing of the beer-tie grip once held over our pubs and the possibility for smaller brewers to sell their product. All thanks to the men and women of CAMRA for easing this situation along. Once again, we need to point out that this book is about the history of our pubs, not our beer!

The format of this section shows the name of the owner or brewer, where it was located (if known,) the date range for when it was operating, and whether the reference was for an owner or a brewery business. Then follows an account of what is known about the subject. It should be stressed again that the listing is by no means complete.

This chapter of the book does not cover the most recent owners, as they are so detached from what this book attempts to convey. Up until the 1990s, there had always been a healthy relationship between pubs and breweries. Breweries owned an estate of pubs, and it was in the breweries' interests to ensure their survival. However, the biggest six breweries controlled over 75% of the business and therefore controlled prices. In 1989 the government attempted to break the brewers' stranglehold by introducing legislation to open up the market for greater pub ownership. This meant that no brewery could own more than 2,000 pubs. The average brewery estate was then around 10,000 pubs and many breweries were forced to give up some 80% of their properties. By so doing, they took on the role of product supplier rather than owner.

This legislation led to property speculators buying up these pubs, with most of Britain's 60,000 drinking establishments being owned by big chains. Most cared little about the pub culture, seeing their new acquisitions as nothing more than an opportunity for increased profits or redevelopment and resale. For the next 15 years, pubs were bought and sold in blocks of several hundred, most being acquired by investment companies. Punch Taverns, for example, doubled its acquisitions between 2003 and 2006, and by then owned one in six British pubs - almost 10,000 of them. In 2006, another of these companies, Enterprise Inns PLC, had boosted its holdings to nearly 9,000 pubs, having bought 4,000 taverns from Unique Pubs Ltd. In 2007 Punch sold 869 of its pubs to Admiral Taverns. In 2012, these three 'pubcos' are the biggest pub owning players in the marketplace, with many complaints about their practices, rents, beer-tie agreements, etc.

We will, therefore, leave historians of the future to untangle and record the 21<sup>st</sup> century's owners of our pubs. The world of high finance has no place here.

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#### ACTON

Colchester

c1980 to date

an owner

Mr John Acton purchased the freeholds of the Globe in Military Road and renamed it the Oliver Twist, the Roundabout at St Botolph and renamed it the Carousel, later to become the Dickens Inn, and Scraggs on North Hill, renaming it the Wig and Pen, later to be Times Café Bar and now a noodle bar. The Oliver Twist was sold to Greene King in 1986.

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### ADAMS

?

1925 to 1929

an owner

T F Adams and Son owned the Forester's Arms during this period.

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### ADEMOGLU

Colchester

1980s – 2000s

an owner

Mr Adnan Ademoglu owned Adnan's Jazz Bar (later Club Forin) and Fashion Bar.

---

### ADMIRAL TAVERNS

Chester

2003 to date

a pubco

Admiral Taverns Ltd. operates tenanted or leased pubs in England and Wales, having acquired many of these following the Beer Orders Act, whereby the big brewers were forced to sell off all but 2000 of their pubs. It was incorporated in 2003 and is based in Chester, United Kingdom and operates several pubs in Colchester.

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### ADNAMS

Southwold, Suffolk

1973 to date

brewers and owners

Adnams Breweries owned the Bricklayer's Arms, the British Grenadier, the Dragoon until 2011 and the Hospital Arms.

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### George ALLEN

Colchester

1877 to 1893

an owner

George Allen of Colchester owned the Fountain, the Stag's Head in Magdalen Street and, according to an advertisement, also had an interest in the Cross Keys.

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### ALLIED

nation-wide

1961 to 1990s

brewers and owners

Allied Breweries, then Europe's largest drinks combine, acquired Ind Coope in 1961, although the name of Ind Coope survived for many years after, with many pubs today still carrying their signs. In 1978, Allied Breweries merged with the Lyons food group and became Allied Lyons. Like most brewers, they were keen to escape the low profitability of beer and dabbled in the hotel business and then towards the end of the 1980s, moved heavily into wines and spirits. The result was a mess and new management spent some years sorting the matter out, with acquisitions of Augustus Barnett and the Spanish company Pedro Domecq and disposals of hotels and pubs and other interests. They attempted to solve the brewing problem by merging with Carlsberg, with poor results. They became styled as Allied Domecq, with a stock market value (1994/5) of £5.5bn and a workforce of some 70,000. It was a far cry from the wheeling and dealing of the Colchester Brewing Company some 100 years earlier, who were to be swallowed up first by Ind Coope and then this unfriendly and profit driven giant.

Allied Domecq did not display their name on their pubs, presumably because they didn't intend to own them for long. In 1999, they owned the Hole in the Wall, the Leather Bottle and the Waggon and Horses and quite a few others.

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## ANGLIA TAVERNS

Princes Street, Ipswich

1991 to 1992

owners

Anglia Taverns owned the Cherry Tree.

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## Thomas ANDREWS

North Street. Colchester.

c1792

a brewer

He is shown in the Universal Directory of 1792-4 and in Holden's Directory for 1805-7. On a plan of the water pipes from the spring head in Cheswell Meadow, to the cisterns near North Gate, surveyed by William Cole in December 1782, he mentions Thomas Andrews, located at what we now know as Cistern Yard.

see **COBBOLD**

see also the **Marquis of Granby** for a section of the 1782 plan.

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## Thomas ANSELL

Colchester

c1617

a brewer

This brewer made his will in 1617.

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## William ARGENT

Northgate Brewery, Duck Lane (now Northgate Street)

c1823 to c1855

a brewer

The site of this brewery dates from around 1823 and was situated to the north of the Marquis of Granby public house and almost opposite the North Hill Brewery of Charles Cobbold. By 1855 the business was owned by Francis William Bishop, who traded as the Northgate Brewery. In 1869 it passed to Daniell's Castle Brewery.

---

## Thomas BALL

St Giles

Colchester

1581

a brewer

This brewer was in operation in 1581.

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## BAKERS YARD LTD

1991 to 1992

an owner

They owned the Dicken's Inn from 1991.

---

## BARNES and HUNT

Abbeygate Street, Colchester

c1780 to 1833

a brewer

The business was originally a malthouse. In 1770, Robert Bradstreet leased the malthouse to Clark Barnes who in turn leased it to his son Thomas in 1783. In 1800, Mary Barnes, a widow, was in business with John Hunt, a beer brewer. The premises were close to the Brewer's Arms public house, on the south side of Stanwell Street. A controlling interest was taken by John Posford Osborne in 1827. The premises were sold to an iron founder in 1833 and many of the buildings demolished to suit the new owner's business.

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### John BAWTREE

St Botolph's Street, Colchester

1767 to 1827

a brewer and owner

The Bawtrees were a well known family of farmers, maltsters, brewers and bankers, members of which were Justices of the Peace and Deputies Lieutenant. John Bawtree senior, of Abberton, purchased the Taylor's Arms, the Ship, the Two Sawyers, the Chequers and the Cock (later the Joiner's Arms), from Benjamin Cock, during the period 1767 to 1814. He built a brewery at St Botolph, that later became associated with Osborne and from which Osborne Street was named. He also owned the Woolpack Hotel, which formed part of that block of buildings. He died in October 1824.

He was succeeded by his son, John Bawtree junior, who, retiring in May 1827, sold his brewery in St Botolph's Street, with 15 inns and public houses in Colchester and neighbouring villages, to Adolphus William Hulme of Reading.

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### BOTANIC BREWERY

East Hill

Colchester

1862 to 1870

a brewer

See the pub named the Roman Urn for more details.

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### BOWLER

North Hill, Colchester

1855

a brewer

A Mr Bowler was recorded as a brewer in 1855 and is probably the same W Bowler who was commissioned by the Cobbold brewery to draw up plans of their houses in 1843.

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### Thomas BRANSON

Colchester

c1872 to 1885

an owner

He owned the Brewer's Arms in Stanwell Street. Thomas Branson died in 1885 and thereafter the property was administered by his trustees.

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### BRENT WALKER

Hartlepool

1991 to 1992

an owner

Brent Walker was a large multi-national company that bought, amongst others, the Tolly Cobbold brewery business in Ipswich in 1989. Their subsidiary, Pubmaster Limited, was responsible for the management of Brent Walker pubs in the Colchester area. Tollemache and Cobbold Breweries Limited, however, purchased their brewing business back.

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### BRIDGES, CUTHBERT and Company Ltd

Culver Street

1872 to 1880

brewers and owners

Messrs Bridges & Co, of the Falcon Brewery, Ipswich was registered in 1866 when they commenced to brew at the Cross Keys public house in Culver Street. Brewing ceased in 1880 and the building was then used as a stores, later by the Norfolk and Suffolk Brewery Company and then by their successors the Colchester Brewing Company. The pub and its associated brewery buildings were demolished in the 1970s.

They owned at some time: Alexandra - Bucks Horns - Clarendon - Cross Keys - Crown and Sceptre - Dragoon - Lord Palmerston - Rainbow - Rifleman

---

## William BRIGHT

Colchester

1872 to 1881

an owner

William Bright owned, at some time, the Essex Arms.

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## BRITISH TRANSPORT

nation-wide

1843 to date

an owner

British Transport Commission, took over from the London and North East Railway (1925 to 1939 approx.) and before that, the Great Eastern Railway Company (1900 to 1925 approx.) and before that the Great North East Railway (1843 to 1900 approx.) Between them, they owned the Victoria Hotel and then the Victoria Hotel Tap, followed by the Buffet Bar on the station premises.

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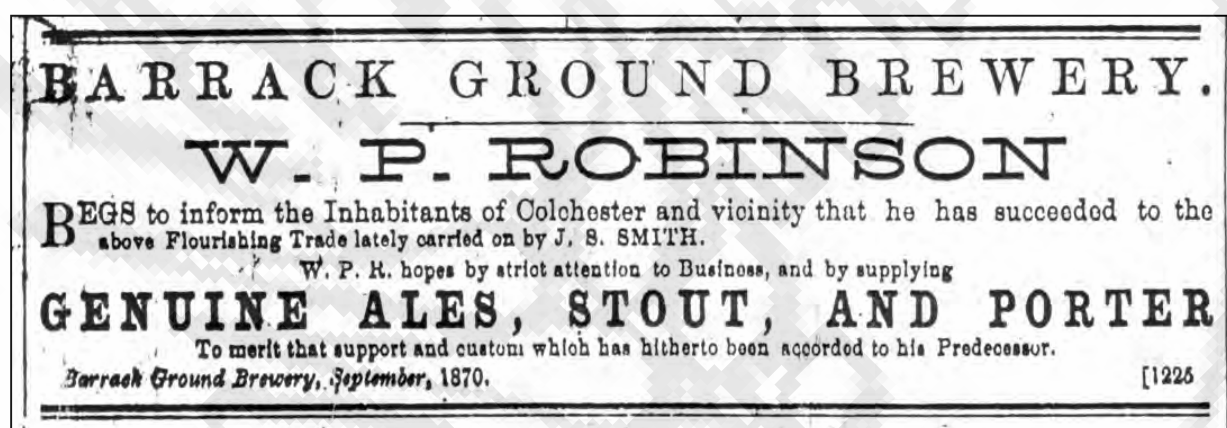
## Marshall BRUCE

Colchester

c1851

a retail brewer

Marshall Bruce's Barrack Ground Brewery is shown in the 1851 census, although he is known to have had a beerhouse in Military Road in 1848<sup>1</sup>. He died in 1860 and his widow and son Marshall took over. The business is shown later as an ale and porter merchant in 1874, trading in Stanwell Street.



## CAREGLADE

Ipswich

1989 to 1998

an owner

Careglade Inns Ltd. owned the Bricklayer's Arms. The company was put into the hands of the receiver in 1991, who took over the operation of their 13 public houses. It was dissolved in 1998.

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## Elena CHAMBERLAYN

Colchester

1340 to 1361

an alewife, brewster, beer seller

Within the town's castle entrance, can be seen a unique inscription which reads:

**AL YAT FOR ROGER CHANNBYRLEYN & FOR HYS WYF GOD YEF HEM AL GODE LYF**

which has been loosely modernised to read:

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from P Adkins 25<sup>th</sup> Sep1996



All that pray for Roger Channbyrleyn and for his wife, God give them all good life

Indeed, this is the only inscription in the castle from such an early period and has been much discoursed upon over the years. Research into the Borough's records led to a story unfolding of the legal aspects of trading in medieval Colchester, regularly involving Roger Chamberleyn's wife, Elena, a beer seller and brewster. In the year 1340, 'Roger Chamberleyn's wife' was taken before the court accused of 'selling beer contrary to the assize, viz. a gallon at 1«d', together with 96 other Colchester wives, widows and spinsters. They all lost their case and were fined. In 1351, Roger himself appeared before, and was fined by, the court for 'selling wine against the assize.' Thereafter, Elena appeared, with others, at regular intervals over the next 20 years. This seemed to be a means by which the court and its clerks could generate income, as they also treated wine sellers, millers and bakers in like manner. Perhaps the fines were regarded as a sort of licence.

The relevance of the inscription appears to be that Roger Chamberleyn also appeared in the records by the name Roger Gaoler, an indication of his responsibility for the county gaol at the castle and our earliest written record of a seller of beer in the town.

This reference is given in isolation for its general interest and to highlight the fact that, by the middle of the 13th century, whilst brewing was carried on in taverns, alehouses and inns, it remained an important part of women's work. Much general brewing was done by women, known as ale-wives or brewsters. They seem to have been cheerful and happy-go-lucky women, brewing their ale and selling it, paying the fines that were imposed on them with good grace.

## CHAPLIN

Colchester

1876 to 1881

an owner

William Chaplin owned the Sir Colin Campbell during this period.


## CHARRINGTON NICHOLL and COMPANY

East Hill Brewery

1830 to 1923

brewers and owners

**CHARRINGTON NICHOLL & CO.,**  
**Brewers & Mineral Water**  
**MANUFACTURERS,**  
**East Hill, Colchester.**



TRADE MARK.

**PRICE LIST.**

XXXX Strong Ale ..	Kils. 29/-	Fkns. 14-6	Pins. 7/6
XXX Stock Ale ..	24/-	12/-	6/-
XX Ale ..	18/-	9/-	4/6
East Indian Pale Ale ..	24/-	12/-	6/-
A.K. Bitter Ale ..	18/-	9/-	4/6
Porter ..	18/-	9/-	4/6
Stout ..	24/-	12/-	6/-
Colchester Soda Water ..	Doz. Bott. 2/-	Doz. Spills. 1/3	
" Seltzer ..	2/6	1/3	
" Potash ..	2/6	1/3	
" Lithia ..	2/6	1/3	
" Lemonade ..	2/6	1/3	
" Gingerade ..	1/6		
" Ginger Ale ..	1/6		
" Ginger Beer ..	1/-		
" Winter Beverages ..	1/6		
Sparkling Phosphatis .. ..	Pint Champagnes. 5/6 per doz.	Half-Pints. 3/-	

1885

*Special Quotations to the Trade & Large Consumers.*

**Two deliveries daily to all parts of the Town.**  
**Syphons filled.**

an advertisement from 1885. above.

On Monson's map dated 1848 is shown, at the bottom of East Hill, on the north side, a 'Porter Brewery,' which had been founded in 1830 by Kimber, Gross and Nicholl. Before many years had passed the two first named partners had retired and the firm was styled Charrington, Nicholl and Co. Under the same management were steam saw mills and timber yards next to the distillery in Culver Street. The brewery was rebuilt in 1871 and the census of that year shows it in the occupancy of Charrington Nicholl junior, then unmarried and aged 28. He died on the 7th February 1905. His company at the East Hill Brewery, then known as Charrington Nicholl and Co. Limited, was divided by shares, the value of his personal estate being around £190000.

In 1882 the brewery was producing 40,000 barrels of beer per annum. It was enlarged in 1884 to enable it to produce 300 barrels per day. The illustration dated 1885 details the range of drinks that were produced by the company with beer being sold in 18 gallon kilderkins, 9 gallon firkins or 4½ gallon pints.

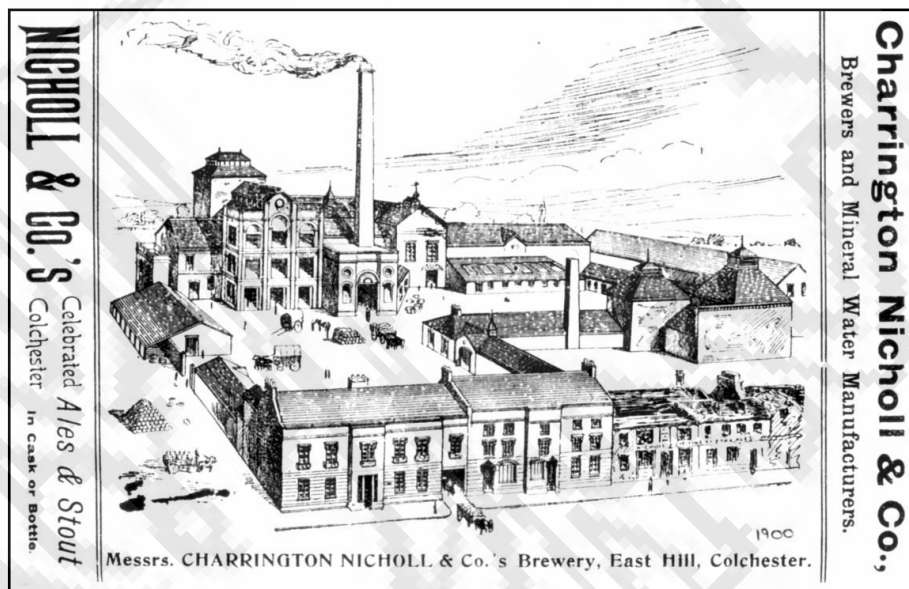
XXXX Strong Ale cost a farthing over two old pence per pint and XX Ale cost a little over a penny ha'penny per pint. Inflation has done its worst over the years, a pint of best bitter now (2012) costing around 430 old pence (£2.80)

Nearby rivals, the Colchester Brewing Company, began acquiring stock in the business and had gained a controlling interest by 1920, when malting ceased and in 1925 the business was wound up and its public houses sold to the Colchester Brewing Company.

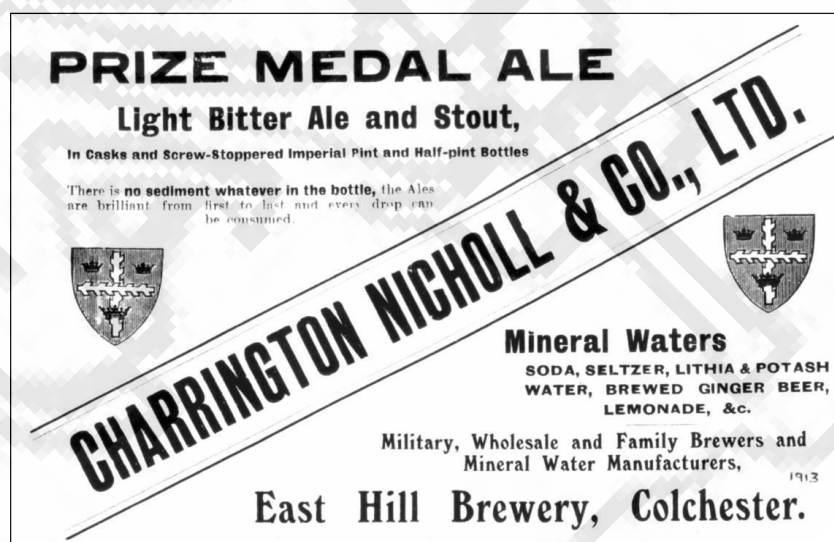
Ind Coope and Co. Ltd., took over the brewery in 1925, which was situated behind the present day Goat and Boot public house. Most of the buildings were demolished in 1971 and the land is now an open space.

Some of the houses that Charrington Nicholl once owned were; the Ale Stores in Short Wyre Street, Angel, Baker's Arms, Dagmar, Goat and Boot, Globe in Military Road, Greyhound, Horseshoes, Leather Bottle, Queen's Hotel, Recreation Hotel, Roman Urn, Royal Oak in Harwich Road, Sun at Lexden, Tramway Tavern, Vine, Welcome Sailor.

A tragic accident occurred at this brewery in 1920 when, the managing director, Mr Adolphus Frederick Nicholl, fell through an open trap door whilst making an inspection of the works. The newspaper report<sup>1</sup> covered the inquest in some detail. It is probable that this event led to the eventual sale of the brewery.



The advertisement above dated 1900 shows the layout of the brewery as it then was.  
(The Goat and Boot is in the bottom right corner of the picture.)



An advertisement from 1913 assuring customers of there being no sediment in their beer and that therefore all could be consumed.

<sup>1</sup> ECS - 28<sup>th</sup> Sep 1920



Compare the picture in the 1900 advertisement with this earlier one, dated around 1866.



A section of an 1876 OS Map, showing the brewery and the Goat and Boot public house.

# COBBOLD

North Hill

18th century to 1884

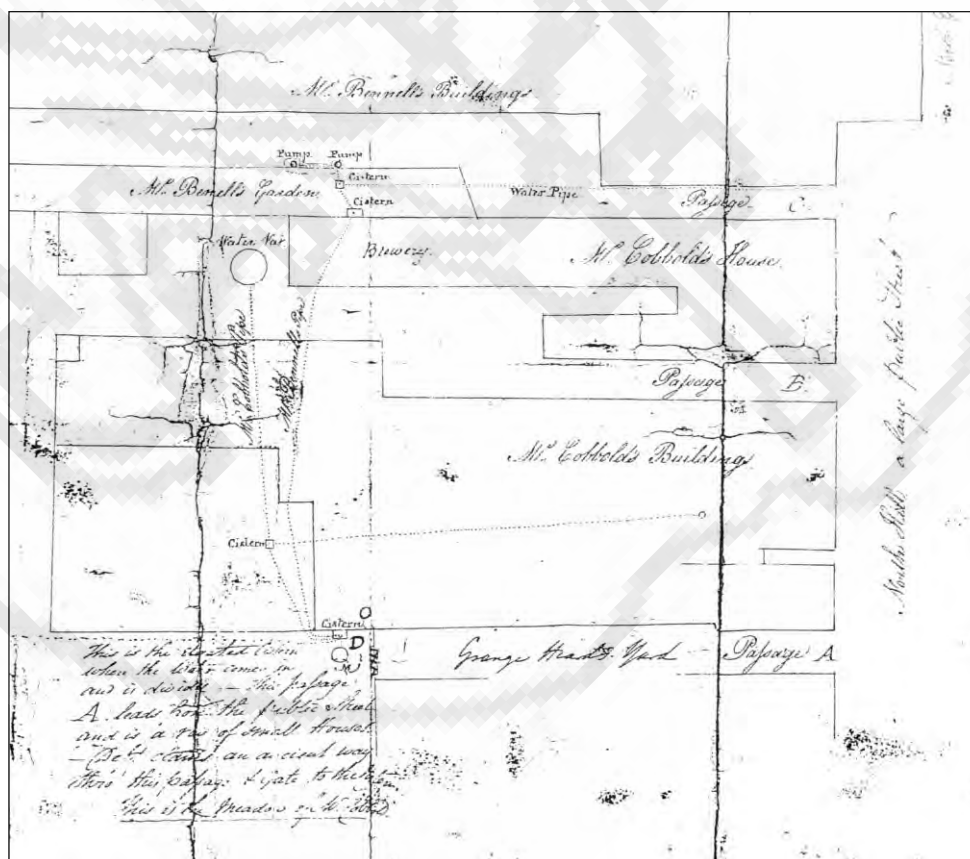
brewers and owners

This brewery business started in Colchester through the marriage of Robert Andrews and Ann Cobbold in 1736. Their son Thomas Andrews was a brewer with premises on North Hill, opposite to the Marquis of Granby. The Sun Assurance Company in 1776 insured 'Thomas Andrews of Colchester, Brewer and Maltster, on his dwelling house, wash house, counting house, store house and brewing office and Inns; Star and Anchor, Mitre, Bishop's Blaze and Coach and Horses; £23000.' Exactly what the relationship was, is not clear, but Charles Cobbold acquired the business, commencing brewing around 1823. The link probably came from Thomas Cobbold who was concerned in establishing Salt Water Baths at Harwich in 1757 and who was also proprietor of the well known Cliff Brewery, and later Holywells at Ipswich. Charles was soon followed by William Cobbold, who died in March 1826 at the age of 42, when the business was carried on by his widow, 'with the strictest punctuality and attention.'

In 1827, by order of the Devises 'the very desirable Freehold Estate, comprising the Brewery, with the well arranged plant, a Family Residence, with suitable offices, Fifteen Public Houses, and two Maltings,' was offered for sale at the Three Cups Inn. Apparently the property was withdrawn since Robert and John Cobbold of 32 North Hill (and Ipswich) carried on business until the 1880s. In 1843, John Cobbold and Robert Knipe Cobbold commissioned a local surveyor, W A Bowler, to draw plans of the brewery and of all its tied houses, a skilfully and beautifully drawn record which has survived to this day, showing the following houses in Colchester, and some 25 others out of the area:

Brewery and Premises	St Peter	Duke of Wellington	St Giles
Coach and Horses	St Peter	White Lion	St Mary Magdalen
Castle	St Peter	Mariners	St Mary Magdalen
Globe	St Peter	Swan	St Leonard
Locomotive	St Martin	Mitre	St James
Bird in Hand	St Martin	Railway Tavern	Lexden
Sun	St Nicholas	<i>Railway Tavern</i>	<i>Mile End</i>
Crown and Anchor	St Giles	<i>New Inn</i>	<i>St Giles</i>

(those shown in italics are mentioned but not drawn)



A section of a plan (c1820) of the brewery entitled: 'A Rough Sketch of the Water Works, etc. belonging to Messrs. Cobbold and Bennell, North Hill, Colchester'.



They also owned at a later date: Barley Mow - British Grenadier - Horseshoes - Royal Oak, East Stockwell Street - White Hart, Crouch Street

In 1883, the two brothers sold their Colchester interests to C Stopes and Sons of the Eagle Brewery on East Hill, who no doubt wished to acquire more public houses and at the same time to reducing brewing competition by closing this brewery down. Another of the Cobbold family, Arthur T Cobbold, ran the distillery in Culver Street, that business having probably been started by Samuel Bawtree some 50 years earlier.

In 1932<sup>1</sup>, the newspapers reported the demolition of Cistern Court on the west side of North Hill, the entrance by an archway separating Carlton's Hotel, formerly Cobbold's Brewery, and a dairy.

(see Ipswich Journal 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1742/3)

### COLCHESTER BREWING COMPANY

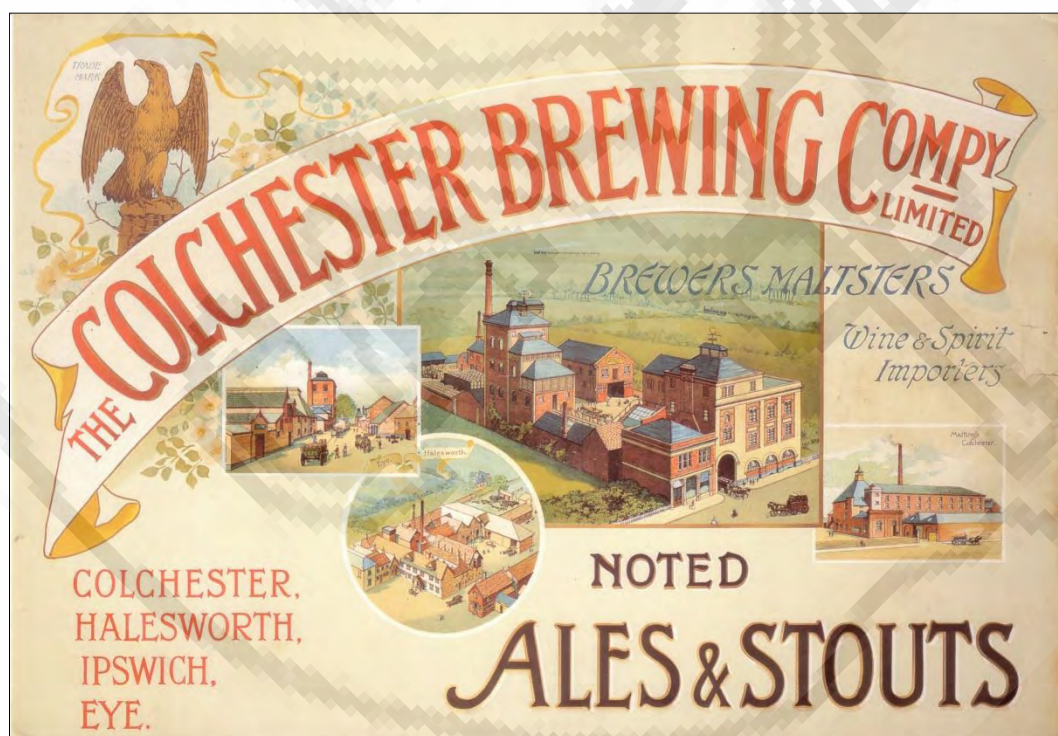
East Hill

1886 to 1962

brewers and owners

A masterful Quaker, Robert Hurnard, of Kelvedon, together with his one time apprentice, Christopher Stopes, opened a brewery on East Hill 'on a humble scale' in the late 1820s, where they, and later joined by Robert's son James, 'strove to brew the best in all the thirsty town of Colchester.' On his father's death in 1866 at the age of 91, James sold his interest to Christopher Stopes and retired from business and achieved his ambition by publishing a 10,000 word poem dealing with every aspect of Victorian life under the title of 'The Setting Sun.'

In 1877, Christopher's son joined him, and later, in 1886, they acquired the Osborne Brewery, owned by Arthur Thomas Osborne and A O Stopes, with whom there had presumably been a family connection. Christopher Stopes and Son was acquired in 1887 by the Norfolk and Suffolk Brewing Company, a company which had been formed only the previous year as an amalgamation of the various brewing interests of Bridges, Cuthbert and Co. & Harwood and Co. of Ipswich, the Eye Brewery of Eye in Suffolk, the Cross Keys Brewery of Colchester and the Beccles Brewery of Beccles, Suffolk. In that same year, the company was given the new name of the Colchester Brewing Company Ltd.



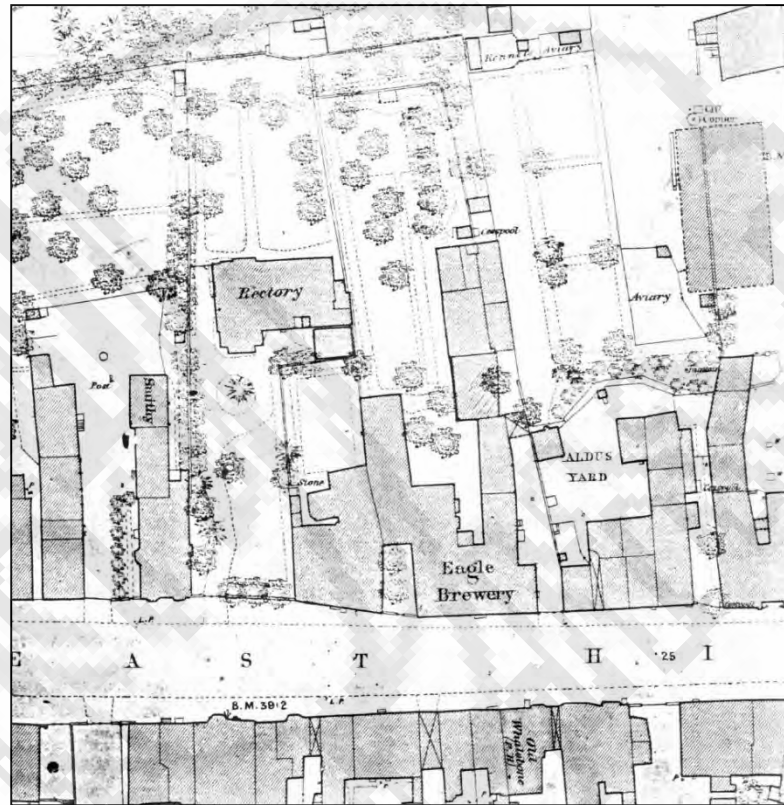
The above advertisement must be one of the most important of Colchester's industrial heritage artwork. dating from perhaps the 1920s.

<sup>1</sup> ECT - 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 1932



In 1888, the Eagle Brewery as it was named, was rebuilt, with a red sandstone tablet inscribed '12th May 1888, H Stopes, Architect.' It was of 140 quarters capacity and supplied 330 public houses. Mr Arthur Othniel Stopes was, by then, Managing Director. In 1912, a merger with Daniell and Sons was proposed but failed to be approved by a meeting of shareholders.

In 1918, Thomas Cudden's Nayland Brewery was acquired, together with ten public houses. It had also been slowly acquiring stock in its nearby rivals Charrington, Nicholl and Company and by 1920, they had gained a controlling interest, that company and all its public houses being acquired outright in 1925.



A section of the 1876 OS map series showing what would have been Stopes' Eagle Brewery and the Old Whalebone Public House, opposite.



An artist's view of the brewery on East Hill c1920

**THE COLCHESTER BREWING  
COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**FAMOUS**

**Oyster Feast Stout**

As Supplied for many years to the  
**COLCHESTER OYSTER FEAST.**

**Old King Coel Strong Ale**

The Drink for the Winter.

**Wines & Spirits** OF THE **best quality**

At all the Company's Licensed Houses  
or direct from

**The Eagle Brewery, Colchester.**

1925

an advertisement from 1925



Both sides of a Colchester Brewing Company two penny token, in common use around the 1880s. They were used by different businesses for the purchase of beer.

The following is a list of Colchester pubs (over 70 houses) which were at one time or other owned by the Colchester Brewing Company:

Alexandra, Anchor (Magdalen Street), Angel, Artillery Arms (Maidenburgh St), Artillery Tavern, Baker's Arms, Barley Mow, Bath Hotel, Beehive (Bromley Road), Beehive (North Hill), Bell (Old Heath), Bell (Priory Street), Boar's Head, British Grenadier, British Lion, Bugle Horn, Caledonian, Carpenter's Arms, Castle (North), Clarence, Clarendon, Coach and Horses, Cross Keys, Dragoon, Duke of Wellington, Foundry Arms, Globe (North

Street), Globe (Military Road), Goat and Boot, Greyhound, Grosvenor Hotel, Health and Happiness, Horse and Groom, Joiner's Arms, King's Arms, King's Head (Balkerne Hill), Lamb Inn, Leather Bottle, *Lion and Lamb (Ardleigh)*, Lord Cardigan, Lord Palmerston, Mariners, Mermaid, Nelson's Head, New Inn, Plough, Queen's Arms (Culver Street), Queen's Head (Hythe Hill), Queen's Hotel, Railway Tavern (North Station), Rainbow, Recreation, Red Cross, Rifleman, Rising Sun, Robin Hood, Rose and Crown (East Street), Rose and Crown (Vineyard Street), Royal Mortar, Royal Oak (Harwich Road), Sea Horse, Ship (East Hill), Spread Eagle, Sun Inn (Maidenburgh Street), Swan (Hythe Hill), Victoria, Victory, Vine, Waggon and Horses, Waterloo, Welcome Sailor, Whalebone, Wheatsheaf, White Hart (Crouch Street), White Horse, White Lion, White Pig (later Tramway Tavern), William IV, Woolpack.

The Essex Telegraph of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1894, announced an 'Issue at Par of £265,000 Four-and-a-half per cent, Mortgage Debenture Stock'. The trustees were listed as:

The Right Hon. Viscount Grimston of Sopwell, Herts.  
Horace George Egerton Green, Kings Ford, Colchester, High Sherriff for Essex.  
Louis Philippe Montefiore, 35, Hyde Park Square, W.

The directors were listed as:

Alfred J Newton; Colonel Coxon; Thomas Moy, JP; Algernon J Ind, JP; Arthur Othniel Stopes.

It went on to list 319 of its licensed premises, of which 58 were houses in Colchester and its brewery on East Hill. This company was a giant of its time.

As a result of the death of a major shareholder, the Colchester Brewing Company itself was purchased in 1925 by the Ind Coope and Company of Romford.



As seems to regularly happen after such a take-over, brewing soon ceased and the premises were used as a regional office and depot, distributing beer until 1987. The name, however, lived on as the Colchester Brewing Company Ltd. of 120 Station Street, Burton-on-Trent, and became Ind Coope (East Anglia) Ltd., around 1962.



The Eagle Brewery building (as pictured above in 2007) has since been converted into offices and residential accommodation, the once golden eagle perched high on the building's facade having become a less impressive black - a lasting testament to the building's former glory! It is inscribed, 'Built 1888, Eaglegate, Restored 1988'.



The foundation tablet shown above had the name of the Colchester Brewing Company erased during World War II as a precaution against invading Germans knowing which town they were in. One might have hoped that invading Germans would have had a shrewd idea as to where they were before invading us, thereby avoiding the need for Dad's Army to deface such an important monument. The eagle has the date 1828.

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### COOK Brothers

155/156 Magdalen Street

1913 to c1937

a brewer

David Jervis is first recorded in 1874 brewing at this address, trading up until 1887 when his widow, Mrs Victoria Jervis, took over the business. She sold out to Albert Harry Cook in 1899, who was later joined by his brother George.



Brewing ceased at that time when bottling only took place. George Cook, senior, owned a small brewery in Halstead, Essex and it was its beer that was bottled in Magdalen Street by his two sons. He later built a brewery at 17 Mersea Road (the site now occupied by a petrol station) in 1913, the Halstead brewery business brewing until the 1970s.

Harry Leonard Cook died on 6th March 1962<sup>1</sup> at the age of 84. His nephews then carried on the business as an off-licence, which still carried the name of Cook until 1995, when the business was sold to the Unwins group.

Bottle labels from Cook and Co Brewers

## New CORN Exchange

Colchester

1884 to 1902

an owner

The New Corn Exchange Company owned the Three Cups Hotel.

## CRABB

Gt. Baddow

1872 to 1876

an owner

Messrs Crabb, Veley, and Co., Great Baddow owned the Roman Urn.

<sup>1</sup> ECS - 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 1862



### R CROOKE

East Hill

dates unknown

a brewer

R Crooke ran a business known as the Botanical Brewery, the only evidence of this being from an embossed beer bottle and stoneware jar.

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### CUDDEN

Old Heath, Colchester

1872 to 1912

brewer and an owner

The licensing records in 1872 give the owner as F J Cudden of Nayland, although by 1884 the location is Old Heath. In 1886, Mrs Ann Cudden was recorded as a brewer in Old Heath, and then in 1902, her two sons Bernard and Joseph Cudden are shown as running the business. In 1912, Bernard Cudden sold the business to Daniell and Sons Breweries Limited, Colchester.

They owned at some time the King's Arms, Crouch Street and the British Hotel in West Stockwell Street.

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### DANIELL

West Bergholt and Colchester

1830 to 1958

a brewer and an owner

no longer in business

Almost the last of the old Colchester breweries, that of Daniells, which lost its independence to the London brewers, Truman, Hanbury and Buxton in 1958<sup>1</sup>, also dates from the 1830s, when Thomas Daniell was at the Hythe, moving to start the long family connection with West Bergholt, during the following decade. In 1855 he was described as a brewer, maltster, brickmaker, farmer and general merchant of Spreading Oak Farm, where he and his son continued until the 1880s.

In 1866, F W Bishop, who held the Northgate Brewery in Northgate Street at the time of the Crimean War, was trading with E S Daniell as Daniell and Bishop at the Castle Brewery in Maidenburgh Street. The Daniell family made their mark in 1876 by inscribing their initials at high level in the brickwork, these being ESD, WGD, EOD and TCD. S W Crooke replaced Bishop in 1878, and Samuel Chaplin took his place in the 1890s, when the style of the firm was changed to Daniell and Sons Breweries Ltd. of Colchester and West Bergholt.

As part of the company's advertising plan for one of their popular beers, a cartoon of a pretty young lady in short skirt, high heels and bobbed hair was used to promote 'Little Dan' beer. The text read:

There was a little girl who had a little curl,  
Right in the middle of her forehead.  
When she was good, she was very very good, but,  
When you took her Little Dan she was horrid.

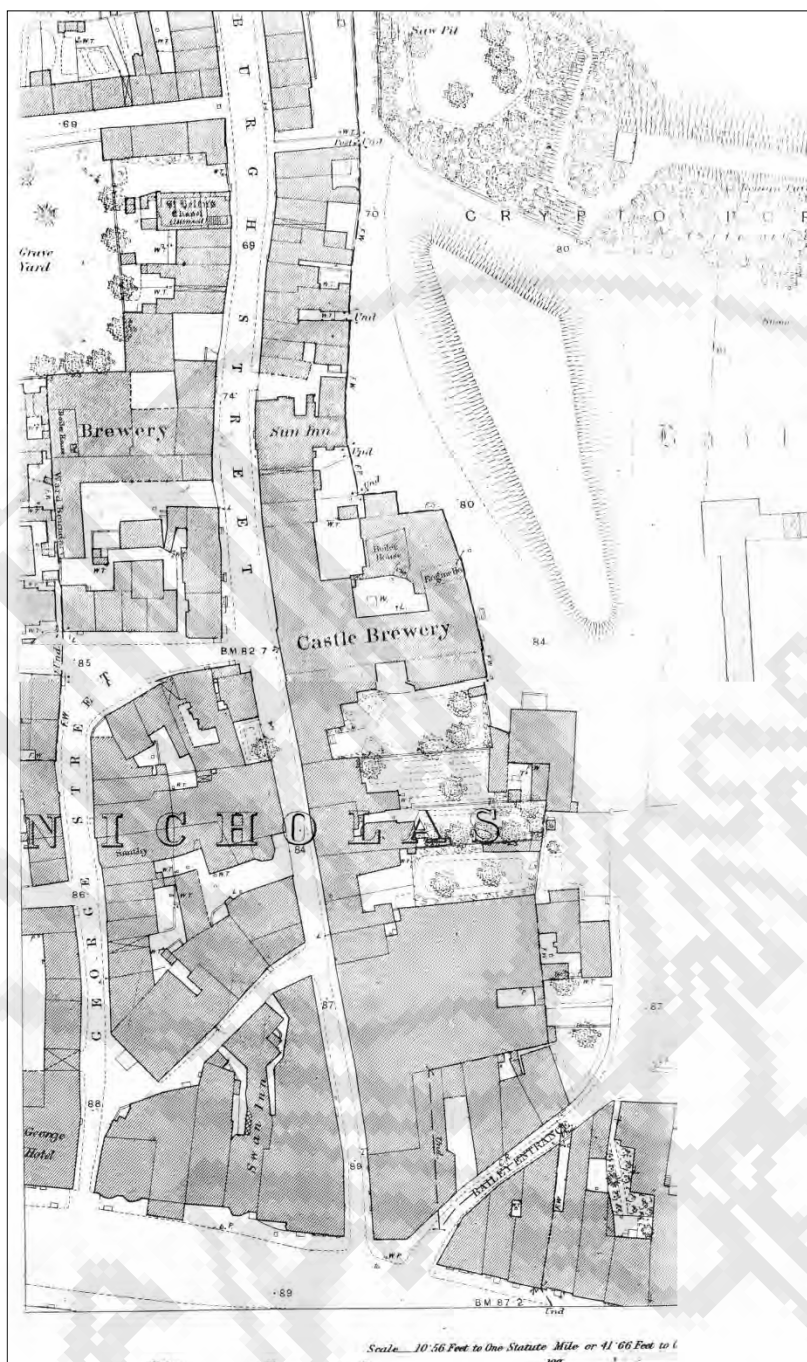
In 1887, Daniell and Sons of West Bergholt Brewery merged and the firm was then renamed as Daniell Brothers and Company, Castle Brewery. In 1888, it was noted that Daniells had 147 public houses and hotels. In 1892, it was noted that brewing had ceased at the Castle Brewery. The trading name of Daniell Brothers and Company continued until 1958 when the company was taken over by Truman, Hanbury, Buxton and Company Ltd., who then changed the name once more to Daniell and Sons Breweries Ltd. Daniells, at that time, owned around 168 pubs in the general area. Much of the Castle brewery buildings are still intact, although converted for use as private housing and to house the Colchester Museum Resources department.

The licensing records from 1872 onwards also mention owners Shepherd Thomas Daniell of Donyland, and William Wilberforce Daniell of West Bergholt.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1955





An extract from the 1876 OS map series showing Daniell's Castle Brewery in Maidenburgh Street, with the Swan Inn, the George Hotel and the Sun Inn nearby (see also the 1909 map in Chapter 7).

An insurance schedule dated around 1918 names and describes the pubs and premises owned by Daniell and Sons' Breweries Ltd of Castle Brewery, Colchester, at that time, which includes the following:

#### Castle Brewery

Offices, Boardroom and Lobbies, marked No. 1 on office plan £1,000  
 Office Furniture, Fittings and Utensils therein £300  
 Wines and Spirits therein £200  
 Open Cart Shed, marked No. 2 Bottle Washing Shed, marked No. 3, corrugated iron built  
 Gas Engine and Apparatus belonging thereto therein £50  
 Bottle Washing Machines, Wheels, Shafting, Piping, Tools and all appurtenances belonging thereto therein  
 Beer Bottling and Carbonating House, having therein two 3 H.P. motors, a hot water Tank for bottle washing and billets by military, marked No. 4 and adjoining last, part timber built £2,500

Bottle Washing, Bottling, Chilling and Carbonating Plant, including Electric Motors and Electric Installations, in said building, No. 4  
Bottle, Crate and Label Store and Cellerman's Office, small part timber built, marked No. 5 adjoining  
Boiler House, adjoining, marked No. 6, having therein a Vertical Boiler secure £50  
Stables and part empty, marked No. 7  
Loading Dock and Store for Beers and Billets by the military, having therein 2 pipe stoves secure, marked No. 8  
Stables, Card Sheds and Harness Room, marked No. 9, small part louver boarded  
On Stock and Utensils in trade in aforesaid buildings, marked Nos. 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9 £200  
Live Stock, Harness, Vehicles, Stable Utensils and Fodder in said buildings, marked No 9, no one horse in the event of loss to be deemed of greater value than £150  
Stock, Plant and Utensils in Trade therein and about yards, subject to the annexed average class £150

**Alma, Military Road**

Public House. The insurance under this item does not extend to outhouses, the property of the tenant £1,000

**Artillery Street**

Beerhouse. £600

Outhouse and Shed adjoining £50

**Bellvue Road, North Street**

Beerhouse. £450

Private Dwelling House. £300

Two W.C.'s and Coal Sheds adjoining last £25

**Berechurch Arms, Shrub End**

Beerhouse, brick, lath and plaster built and tiled, having therein a pipe stove for warmth secure. £700

Stables and Outbuildings, timber and tiled, near £100

**Brewers Arms, Stanwell Street**

Public House, brick, timber, lath and plaster and tiled. £1,500

Stables, Cart Sheds and Covered Yard and Outbuildings, adjoining last, timber built and tiled, near £400

**Bricklayers Arms**

Public House. £1,400

Stabling, Coach House, Shed and Outbuildings, near £150

**Bull Hotel, Crouch Street**

Hotel, brick and lath and plaster built and tiled or slated. £1,825

Stables, Coach House and Loft over and Cart Stand, timber and tiled. Stables and Outbuildings standing on west side of yard. £800

Outbuildings, brick, timber and tiled and corrugated iron, on east side of yard £75

Dwelling House and Shop, adjoining Bull Hotel, occupied by Mrs. Mason, bookseller £600

**Castle Inn, High Street**

Public House £1,000

Range of Coach Houses and Stabling, adjoining last £350

Coach House and Stables with Loft, near, timber built and tiled £150

Range of Stabling, Harness Room and Lavatory on opposite side of yard to last, part timber built £150

**Cock and Pie**

Public House £800

**Dolphin Inn, Hythe**

Public House, brick, timber and lath and plaster built and tiled or slated £800

Sheds, similarly built £25

Stables, with Loft over, and Outbuildings, near, similarly built £75

**Drury Hotel, corner Butt Road and Drury Lane**

Hotel £2,100

**Essex Arms, Essex Street**

Public House £2,500

Stables, Coach House and Outbuildings, near, brick, timber and tiled £200

**Flying Fox Inn, Harwich Road**

Public House £1,000

Range of Sheds and Carpenter's Workshop, brick and timber built and slated, having in said carpenter's shop one bench; no artificial heat or light used therein. Warranted that the shavings and sawdust be cleared up as made and not allowed to accumulate £140

Gates and fences belonging £10

**Fountain Inn, near St. Botolph's Station**

Public House, a pipe stove secure allowed £4,000

**Gaiety Hotel, Mersey Road**

Hotel, a pipe stove secure allowed £2,100

Trap House, Stable and Lumber Room, timber built, near £25

**George Hotel, High Street**

Hotel, brick and timber and lathe and plaster and tiled or slated £5,500

Tap adjoining, similarly built £700

Stabling adjoining £750

Cart Shed in rear, corrugated iron roof £100

Piggeries adjoining last, timber built £50

**Grapes Inn**

Public House £800

Stable and Outbuildings, near £200

**Grosvenor Inn, Maldon and Alexandra Roads** Public House £1,500

Range of Stables, with Loft over, Cart Sheds and Outbuildings, near £200

**Headgate Hotel, Head Street**

Hotel, brick, lath and plaster and tiled £1,500

Coach House and disused Cottage, brick and timber and slated, and zinc in yard, adjoining last £200

Hen-houses, Stables and Carriage House, brick and timber built and tiled, adjoining last £100

Stables, with Lofts over, brick and timber and slated, on opposite side of yard to last, with entrance off Butt Road £200

**Little Crown, Short Wyre Street**

Public House, brick, lath and plaster and tiled £800

Outbuildings adjoining last, similarly built £100

**Neptune, The Quay, Hythe**

Public House, brick and timber built and tiled £750

Granary, similarly built, adjoining last, occupied by Parry & Co £150

Stable, timber and corrugated iron built, near £50

**New Market Tavern, North Hill**

Public House £2,000

Stable, Shed, Cellar, Cart, Lodge and Outbuildings, near, brick and timber built and tiled £300

**Prince of Wales Inn, Magdalen Street**

Public House, brick, lath and plaster built and tiled or slated £1,200

Stable and Outbuildings, similarly built £100

Shoeing Forge, brick and slated £50

Dwelling House and Butcher's Shop, near £250

**Red Lion Hotel, High Street**

Hotel, brick, lath and plaster built and tiled or slated £7,500

Stables on opposite side of road (Culver Street) to last, timber built and slated Stabling and Coach Houses, near £250

**Salisbury Hotel**

Hotel £3,000

Stabling and Coach Houses, near £250

**Stag's Head Inn, Magdalen Street**

Public House £500

Outbuildings £100

**Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell Street**

Public House, lath and plaster built and slated £1,200

Stable, Coach House and W.C., all adjoining, etc., similarly built and adjoining last £50

**Swan Hotel, High Street**

Hotel, brick and lath and plaster built and slated or tiled £1,300

Stables, Harness Room, Coach House, with Loft over, adjoining last, having in said harness room a pipe stove for warmth secure £250

Stable, Cart Shed and Loft, brick, and small part timber built and tiled, on opposite side of road to last £150

W.C.'s, near £15

**Traveller's Friend, Myland**

Public House, brick, lath and plaster built or tiled £900

Stables and outbuildings, near £100

Five Private Cottages at rear, brick, lath and plaster built and tiled or slated, in equal proportions £750

**Old Heath**

Malting Kiln £400

Beer Stores, Engine Room, Malt Room and Mill Room £800

Pump Room, brick and timber built and slated £15

Brewery Cooling Room, Fermenting Room, all adjoining, etc. £200

Boiler House £25

Water Tank, brick and iron £50

Engineer's Workshop £50

The buildings Insured by the last 7 items are at present unoccupied  
Beer House, Chandler's Shop and Dwelling £660

### Parsons Heath

Beer House £545  
Barn near £100  
Gates and Fences £5

### 15, Cromwell Road

Beer and General Shop £600  
Blacksmith's Shop, having therein not more than one forge, brick and timber built and tiled

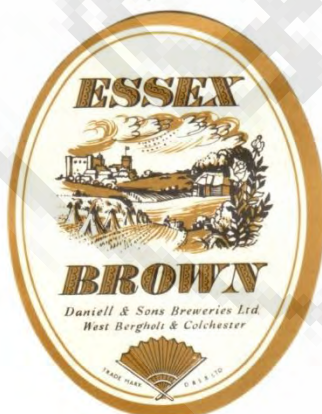
There are also many other public and beer houses on this schedule throughout Essex, outside of Colchester, which have not been shown here.

In all, the 1918 schedule for Colchester alone shows 28 Public Houses plus various other beer houses, shops and stores. However, it is known that Daniells owned other houses, not on the above schedule, at different times, which are included in the following listing.

Alma, Army and Navy, Berechurch Arms, Brewer's Arms, Brewery Tavern, Bricklayer's Arms, Bull Hotel, Castle (High Street), Chaise and Pair, Cherry Tree, Cock and Pie, Colchester Arms (Magdalen Street), Crown (Lexden Street), Crown and Sceptre, Dolphin, Drury Hotel, Elephant and Castle (later the Headgate Hotel), Essex Arms, Flying Fox, Fountain, George, Grapes, Grosvenor, Inkerman, Little Crown, Live and Let Live, Lord Raglan, Neptune, New Market Tavern, Norfolk, Plough, Prince of Wales, Red Lion Hotel, Rose and Crown (East Street), Royal Oak, Salisbury, Sir Colin Campbell (later the Gaiety), Smith's Beer House (Parson's Heath), Stag's Head (later the Unicorn), Star (Lexden), Stockwell Arms, Swan (High Street), Traveller's Friend - 44 in total.



Mr Peter Wilberforce Daniell died in 1993 at the age of 77<sup>1</sup>. He was the last Daniell link with the company, being its managing director when the company was taken over by Trumans.



Some Daniells beer bottle labels from the 1950s

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 1993



FIRST-CLASS QUALITY GUARANTEED.

**Ale in Cask** from **1/-** Per Gall.

PORTER & XXX STOUT.

SPARKLING

**Dinner Ale & Creamy Stout.**  
(or BEST-CLASSED ALES).

Per Dozen. **2/6** Per Dozen.

---

**Daniell & Sons' Breweries,**  
LIMITED.

Offices & Stores: CASTLE BREWERY, COLCHESTER.  
Brewery: WEST BERGHOLT.

---

Champagne of all the Leading Brands.

THE FINEST BRAND OF

**ITALIAN COCA WINE**

184 PRIZE MEDALS.

Per Half-Litre. **2/6** Per Half-Litre.

Full Price Lists of Wines, Spirits, Cordials, and Cider may be had on application as above.

ORDERS BY POST RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

FIRST-CLASS QUALITY GUARANTEED.

**Ale, Porter, and Stout**  
IN CASK OR BOTTLES.

SPARKLING DINNER ALE at - **2/6** PER GALL.  
CREAMY STOUT - - - **2/6**

IMPERIAL PINT (BOTTLED & STOPPED) BOTTLES.

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**DANIELL & SONS'**  
BREWERIES, Limited.

Offices - - - Castle Stores, Colchester.  
Brewery - - - West Bergholt.

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CHAMPAGNE OF ALL THE LEADING BRANDS.

THE PINEST BRAND OF ITALIAN COCA WINE  
(34 Prize Medals), 2/6 per Half Litre.

1860 CHOICE LIQUEUR BRANDY,  
Superior & Recommended.

Full Price Lists of Wines and Spirits may be had on application as above.

ORDERS BY POST RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

**TRY DANIELLS' XXXX**

Telephone Nos. | Castle Brewery—COLCHESTER 36.  
West Bergholt—COLCHESTER 36.

**Daniell & Sons' Breweries**  
LIMITED.

BREWERS, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS,  
West Bergholt & Colchester.

Bags to offer for Family Consumption their CELEBRATED

**ALES and STOUT**  
In Cask or Bottle.

SPECIAL VALUE IN  
Dinner Ale, Pale Ale,  
XXXX, Stout & Cider.

Bottles for BASS, WORTHINGTON & GUINNESS

LARGE STOCK OF WINES AND SPIRITS  
carefully selected.

OLD GLENLIVET BLEND OF SCOTCH  
WHISKY A SPECIALITY.

Prices on application. Orders by post receive prompt attention.

**TRY DANIELLS' XXXX**

**TRY DANIELLS' XXXX**

Telephone Nos. | Castle Brewery—COLCHESTER 36.  
West Bergholt—COLCHESTER 36.

**Daniell & Sons' Breweries**  
LIMITED.

BREWERS, WINE and SPIRIT MERCHANTS,  
WEST BERGHOLT & COLCHESTER.

Bags to offer for Family Consumption their CELEBRATED

**ALES and STOUT**  
In Cask or Bottle.

Drink Daniells'  
"LITTLE DANS."

Special Value in  
DINNER ALE, PALE ALE, XXXX, STOUT and CIDER.

Bottles for BASS, WORTHINGTON AND GUINNESS.

LARGE STOCK OF WINES -  
AND SPIRITS—carefully selected.

OLD GLENLIVET BLEND OF  
SCOTCH WHISKY A SPECIALITY.

Prices on application. Orders by post receive prompt attention.

**TRY DANIELLS' XXXX**

various Daniell's advertisements dated from 1900 to 1927

## Robert FENNING

Hythe Street

c1839

a brewer

Robert Fenning was listed as a brewer in 1839.

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## FIRKIN BREWERIES

1979 to ?

The Firkin Brewery, motto 'Usque Ad Mortem Bibendum', started in 1979, in what was a shut-down Truman house. The chain that it became was sold in 1988 to Midsummer Leisure, then in 1990 to Stakis Leisure and then later to Taylor Walker, a division of the brewing giant, Carlsberg-Tetley.

The company acquired the Lamb in High Street in 1998 and changed its name to the Faunus and Firkin. They are now part of the giant Allied Domecq empire and not really a brewery at all!

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## FIVE STAR

1988 to 1993

an owner

Five Star Leisure Ltd. owned the Flying Fox.

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## FLETCHER

Colchester

1872 to 1884

an owner

William Fletcher owned the Red Lion during this period.

---

## FREMLIN

Maidstone, Kent

1939 to ?

a brewer and an owner

Fremilns Ltd. of Maidstone, were lessors to Isherwood, Foster and Stacey Ltd. They owned the Forester's Arms.

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## FRESHFIELD

Colchester

18th century

a brewer and an owner

In property deeds assigned to John Freshfield, dating back to 1669, reference is made to Thomas Bush Timothy, a brewer in St Botolph's parish between 1719 and 1725. In 1732, William Cross bequeathed a brewhouse to Richard Freshfield, described as 'known by the sign of the Plough, then in his occupation in the parish of St Botolph, Colchester.' In September of that same year, an indenture mentioning Richard Freshfield and Francis Freshfield, 'brewers on the estate of the late William Cross,' showed that Richard sold a mortgage to Francis. In 1780, an advertisement offered six Freshfield inns for sale, including the brewhouse and Plough ale house in the occupation of David Rayner.

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## GLIDE

Greenstead

c1648

a brewer

Edmund Glide made his will in 1648, which stated that he was a brewer.

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### GODFREY

St Leonard

Colchester

c1518 to c1540

a brewer

John Godfrey made his will in 1518, which showed that he was a brewer and later, a presumed kinsman of his, James Godfrey, was known to have been in business as a brewer in 1540.

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### GREENE KING

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

1894 to date

a brewer and an owner

Greene King and Sons Ltd., took over the Artillery Man, the Britannia, the Norfolk Hotel and the Royal Artillery from Steward and Patteson in 1894. In 1977, they opened the Cups in Trinity Street. They acquired the Bell, the Clarendon, the Dog and Pheasant, the Foundry Arms, the Goat and Boot and the Oliver Twist in the 1990s.

The company appears to be going the way of other brewing concerns, with take-overs and closures of its rivals, being a feature of its activities. In 2012 they had a poor reputation for the way they were changing the style of our old traditional pubs.

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### GRAND METROPOLITAN

nation-wide

1989 to 1996

brewers and owners

Grand Metropolitan Estates Ltd., also known as Hanbury Taverns, took over all of the pubs belonging to Trumans, and their subsidiary Innentrepreneur Estates became responsible for their overall operation.

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### GRIMSTON

Colchester

1872 to 1899

an owner

Walter Edward Grimston owned several Colchester pubs but decided to sell them to Trumans in 1899. An indenture survives showing 16 Colchester pubs being sold as listed below:

Albert, Colchester (St Peter) - Anchor Beer House, Colchester (St Leonard, Spinnaker) - Blue Boar, Kendall Road, Colchester (1878) - Cambridge Arms, Military Road, Colchester (St Botolph) - Duke of York Inn, Barrack Street, Colchester (St Botolph) - Fencers, Maidenburgh Street, Colchester (St Nicholas) - Gardener's Arms Beerhouse, St Johns Green, Colchester (St Giles) - Hospital Arms Beerhouse, Crouch Street, Colchester (St Mary at the Walls), with the note that it was once used as a Workhouse. - Marlborough Head, Priory Street (formerly Moore Lane or More Elms Lane), Colchester (St Botolph) - Marquis of Granby, North Gate (or Ostrich Yard), Colchester (St Peter) - Nelson's Head or Lord Nelson, Hythe Hill, Colchester - Ordnance Arms, Hythe Bridge, Colchester (St Leonard, abounded by a licensed beerhouse named the Perseverance) - Porter's Stores Wharf, Colchester - Railway Tavern, Magdalen Street, Colchester (St Giles) - Royal Standard, Colchester (St Botolph) - Six Bells, Colchester (Greenstead, formerly the Black Boy Inn) - Spotted Cow Beerhouse, Colchester (St James)

It also detailed the following Memorandums:

Trumans sold the Hospital Arms to Tollemache Cobbold Breweries 29 Oct 1979.

Trumans sold the Marlborough Head to Colchester Corporation 5 Jul 1957.

Trumans sold part of land of Abbey Arms formerly Gardener's Arms to Colchester Corporation 6 Aug 1968.

Trumans sold Ordnance Arms to Thomas Moy Ltd. [date unclear 19..]

Little has been found relating to Mr Grimston other than that he is shown in various Kelly's directories from around 1874, living in Bures Hamlet and by 1894 in Earls Colne, shown as a JP (Justice of the Peace). Perhaps he considered that his service to the community was incompatible with his ownership of public houses where, perhaps, so many of his customers might have been brought before him in the dock!

Mr Ken Stubbings, pub detective of Maldon, commented that 'in 1868, [John] Garrad went into partnership with Walter Grimston. The Garrad and Grimston brewery .....'. He also mentions Grimston purchasing a Maldon pub around 1850. Peaty, in his book about Essex brewers, makes no mention of the Garrad and Grimston concern.

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### George HAMMOND

St Leonard

Colchester

c1670

a brewer

George Hammond is known to have been in business as a brewer prior to 1680.

---

### John HIGGINS

Colchester

1990 to date

an owner

John Higgins owned various pubs in Colchester in the 1990s, including the Salisbury Hotel and the Globe Hotel. He also held the licence of the Cambridge Arms. Sadly, his intentions were centred around destroying the Salisbury for profit rather than running it as a fine pub, as it was.

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### HOLLINGSBURY

Colchester

1899 to 1900

an owner

George Hollingsbury owned the Fountain, but was declared bankrupt in 1900 with debts over £1000.

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### Stephen HOY

Colchester Castle

c1648

a brewer

In his will dated 1648, Stephen Hoy was described as a brewer of Colchester Castle.

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### HUME

Reading, Berks.

1827 to 1833

an owner

Mr A W Hume purchased public houses from the Bawtree family. On the death of Mr Hume in 1833, the estate, which then included 35 public houses, came under the hammer in February 1833, the property including

'.....the substantially erected Brewhouse, recently fitted up with a well arranged and appropriate plant in good preservation, capacious and lofty stores, malt and hop Lofts, spirit store, stabling and cooperage, a capital malting, counting-house, large yard, well supplied with liquor, and two excellent Family Residences in Botolph Street, Colchester. The Brewey commands a free and public trade of upwards of 4000 Barrels Annually.'

Connected with the brewery were 35 inns and public houses of which those in Colchester were:

Ship, Joiners Arms, Rose and Crown, Waterloo, Golden Lion, Prince of Wales, Evening Gun and the Red Cow, Kings Head and Leather Bottle at Lexden, Swan Inn in Stanway, although, in a previously published announcement in 1832, it also included the Woolpack. After the sale it was reported that the brewery (built by Bawtree), two family residences and the Woolpack Inn were sold for £5500. The Ship was bought by Mr J P Osborne for £420, the Joiners Arms was bought by Mr Kimber for £470, the Prince of Wales was bought by Mr J P Osborne for £650, the Leather Bottle at Lexden was bought by Mr Kimber for £260, the Kings Head at Lexden (copyhold) was not sold, the Golden Lion was not sold, the Evening Gun (leasehold) was bought by Mr J P Osborne for £50, the Red Cow (copyhold) was bought by Mr Alston for £290, the Waterloo was bought by Mr Kimber for £330, the Rose and Crown was bought by Mr J P Osborne for £320, the Bugle Horn was bought by Mr J P Osborne for £240.

This sale of public houses seems to have been responsible for the beginnings of various new brewery businesses viz. Osbornes (which later became absorbed by the Colchester Brewing Company), Kimber, Gross and Nicholl (which later was to become Charrington Nicholl), the Cobbold family concern in Colchester but connected with the brewers at Ipswich) and the Alston empire that owned pubs in the Manningtree area.

## IND COOPE

Romford, Essex

1923 to 1978

a brewer and an owner

This company was founded in 1708 at the Star Inn in Romford and the brewery in South Street, Romford. In 1799 the Star Inn and the brewery were purchased by Edward Ind and J Grosvenor. In 1845, C E Coope joined the firm, which then became known as Ind, Coope and Company. The business and trade expanded and it purchased a brewery adjacent to the Samuel Allsopp and Sons Ltd. brewery at Burton on Trent in 1856. In 1910 the company got into financial difficulties and was renamed Ind Coope and Company (1912) Ltd. It purchased the Colchester Brewing Company in 1923, together with its 250 public houses. In 1934 it merged with Samuel Allsopp and Sons Ltd. when it traded as Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. In 1961 it became part of Britain's largest drinks combine, Allied Breweries. It traded from 1958 to 1966 as Ind Coope (East Anglia) Ltd. and up until 1978 as Allied Breweries (Production) Ltd.

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## INNTREPRENEUR

nation-wide

1991 to 1997

owner's agents

Inntrepreneur Estates Ltd. was formed in 1991 as a result of what was known as the pubs for breweries swap between Courage Ltd (a subsidiary of the Fosters Brewing Group) and Grand Metropolitan Group (Grand Met). Courage acquired the breweries of Grand Met and the pubs went to Inntrepreneur which was owned in equal shares by Fosters and Grand Met. Inntrepreneur managed the 3000, or so, pubs for them, mainly through individual leases to tenants. In 1997, Nomura, the Japanese investment bank, acquired the Inntrepreneur Pub Company for £1.2bn. A large number of good old British pubs were thus Japanese owned.

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## ISHERWOOD

?

1940s

an owner

Isherwood, Foster and Stacey Ltd., were lessees to Fremfils Ltd. and they owned the Forester's Arms.

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## JOLLY

Colchester

1872 to 1884

an owner

Elizabeth Jolly of Colchester, owned the Vine.

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## JONES

Colchester

1872 to 1877

an owner

Henry Jones owned (or had interest in) the Grosvenor Hotel, the Langham, the Salisbury Hotel and the Sir Colin Campbell. He was a lawyer by profession and a very interesting character indeed. He is one of the ten of Andrew Phillips' celebrated book, 'Ten Men and Colchester'. The enjoyment that the author of this book has had in reading the reporter's transcripts of licensing sessions with the magistrates has been all the more enjoyable because of this man. The various lawyers, Messrs. Downes, Goody, Neck, Philbrick (son of one of the magistrates and often in court together), etc. have vied with each other on behalf of the various brewers and private owners to do each other down, seemingly to achieve a monopoly - especially if it meant seeing off the Ipswich brewers, Messrs. Bridges. Whether Henry Jones was successful with his houses, we doubt it!

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## KEELING, HUNT & CO

Gutter Street

1811

a brewer

Shown in Holden's Directory for 1811. This must have had a connection Hunt, John and Sons, Brewers and Brandy Merchants, Gutter Street, Colchester, shown in 1805/7 Holden's Directory.

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## KEYMER

Colchester

1872 to 1881

an owner

Ann Keymer of Balkerne Hill owned the Castle in All Saints.

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## KIMBER, GROSS and NICHOLL

St Botolph's Street

1830 to c1850

brewers

The firm of Kimber, Gross and Nicholl was founded in 1830<sup>1</sup> as a porter brewery and was located behind the Greyhound public house in St Botolph's Street. The business later transferred to East Hill when it took the name of Charrington Nicholl and Company. Mr Kimber was active with purchasing public houses in 1833 on the death of Mr Hume. He acquired such houses at that time as the Joiners Arms, the Leather Bottle, the Waterloo.

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## MAC MANAGEMENT

Great Totham

1994 to 1997

management company

Mac Management were a local management company who took on some pubs in the town in 1994. They operated through Grand Metropolitan.

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## Frederick MANN

Maidenburgh Street

c1855

a brewer

Frederick Mann was listed in 1855 as a brewer and then in 1866 as M Mann, perhaps his son. Their brewery was opposite to the Sun Inn, a painting exists to show its tall chimney stack in silhouette. Frederick Mann also owned the Perseverance public house in Hythe Street, later purchased by the Colchester Brewing Company.

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## William MAYNARD

Colchester

c1636

a brewer

William Maynard made his will in 1636 showing him as a brewer.

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## William NECK

6 Maidenburgh Street

c1845

a brewer

William Neck was listed as a brewer in Colchester in 1845.

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## NICHOLL

Colchester

see **Charrington Nicholl and Co**

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## OSBORNE

Colchester

1833 to 1886

a brewer and an owner

Some of the property belonging to Mr Hume in 1833, including 'the substantially erected Brew House, recently fitted up with a well arranged and appropriate Plant .... Stores, Malt and Hot Lofts, Spirit Store, Stabling and Cooperage, Malting, Counting-house and Family Residences .... and 35 Inns and Public Houses,' with the 'Free and Public Trade

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<sup>1</sup> ECS - 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1955

being upwards of 4000 Barrels Annually,' passed into the hands of John Posford Osborne who had that same year sold a much smaller brewery to Richard Coleman. In 1839 the brewery was producing beer and vinegar.

John Posford Osborne died in 1863 at the age of 70 years, when his son, Arthur Thomas Osborne took a controlling interest. The census of 1871, shows the brewery in the occupation of Arthur J Osborne, unmarried and aged 41, described as a wine, spirit and beer merchant. The company was listed in 1884 as A & F Osborne and Company, Ale and Porter Merchants, of 39 St Botolph's Street.

Brewing ceased in 1886 with the public houses being acquired by the Colchester Brewing Company. Thomas Osborne retired and lived at Altnacealgach House, off Lexden Road, whilst a bakery was established at Osborne's Yard, St Botolph's. He died in May 1913, aged 85.

The brewery stood at the corner of Osborne Street and St Botolph's Street and later became a boot repair business. It was badly damaged by fire in 1898 and the site acquired by Hollingtons and converted into a clothing factory. It was partly destroyed by German bombs in February 1944, with no trace of the building standing today.

Public houses owned by Osborne were: Anchor, Magdalen Street - Bath Hotel - Bell Inn, Priory Street - Bugle Horn - Caledonian - Carpenter's - Clarence - Colchester Arms - Dolphin - Dragoon - Elephant and Castle - King's Head - Horse and Groom - Lamb - Nelson's Head - Plough - Prince of Wales - Queen's Head - Red Cross - Rising Sun - Rose and Crown, Vineyard Street - Sea Horse - Ship, East Hill - Spread Eagle - Victoria - Waggon and Horses - Waterloo - Whalebone - White Horse - Woolpack.

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### PARIS

Colchester

1872 to 1884

an owner

Sergeant John Cooper Norman Paris is recorded as owning the Cups Hotel.

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### PHOENIX Inns

1990 to 1996

management company

Phoenix Inns managed the Grapes.

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### PUBMASTER

Hartlepool

1970 to date

owner's agent

A subsidiary of Brent Walker who handled the management of their public houses. They operated many of the pubs in Colchester, controlling the Blue Boar, the Cambridge Arms, the Drury Arms, the Little Crown, the Robin Hood, etc.

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### PUNCH TAVERNS

1997 to date

a pubco

The company was established in 1997 when the founders bought the Bass portfolio of public houses. In 1999 they purchased Allied Domecq's pubs for £3 billion, beating a rival bid from Whitbread. After the deal, Punch spun off its managed pubs into a separate division, Punch Retail, which was later renamed Spirit Group. They bought Pubmaster in November 2003: the acquisition of larger rival Pubmaster, catapulted the operator to number one in the league. The acquisition took the group to more than 7,000 pubs and cemented Punch's position as a major pub operator. (Based on Wikipedia entry.)

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### RICE

Tunbridge

1884 to 1888

an owner

Rice owned the Vine.

## RIDLEYS

Hartford End

1998 to ?

a brewer and owner

In 1998, this Essex brewing company took control of two Colchester pubs, the Silver Oyster and the Beer House.

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## John ROLFE

Hythe Street

c1823 to c1839

a brewer

John Rolfe is listed as a brewer from 1823 through until 1839.

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## Josiah Dennis SALMON

Bank Buildings, High Street

c1855

a brewer

Josiah Dennis Salmon was recorded in 1855 as a brewer and porter merchant. An advertisement appeared in the Essex Standard of 9th April 1852 offering a range of home brewed beer produced at the Domestic Brewery, Culver Street.

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## SCOTTISH and Newcastle Retail and Southern Inns Limited

nation-wide

1986 to 1988

a brewer and an owner

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries PLC owned Molly Malone's, including Fagin's Den, and the Bull Hotel. They made many acquisitions of public houses in the 1990s, making them one of the largest nation-wide food and drink concerns in the country.

In 1999, they owned most of the old Trumans' pubs in the town, namely the Castle, the Friar, the Huntsman, the Market Tavern, The Marquis of Granby, the Prettygate, the Rover's Tye, the Stockwell Arms, etc.

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## John SELBY

St Botolph's Street

c1710 to 1768

a brewer

John Selby was known to have been brewing before 1728 and on his death in that year, his widow Elizabeth carried on the business until 1768.

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## Joseph SHEPHERD

St Botolph's Street

c1823 to 1827

a brewer

Joseph Shepherd was recorded as a brewer from 1823 until 1827.

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## James SIMPSON

23 East Street

1845

a brewer

James Simpson was recorded as a brewer in 1845.

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## George SIMPSON

?

1872 to 1877

an owner

George Simpson was shown to be the owner of the Fountain from 1872 to 1877.

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## Joseph SMITH

Hythe Street

1823

a brewer

Joseph Smith was recorded as a brewer in 1823. See **Marshall Bruce**.

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## STEWART and PATTESON

Norwich

1863 to 1894

brewers and owners

Stewart and Patteson built the Norwich Ale and Porter Stores in Factory Lane (now St Peter's Street) in 1863. They sold some 28 tied houses in 1893 to Greene King and Sons, included in which were the Artilleryman, the Britannia, the Norfolk Hotel and the Royal Artillery.

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## TABOR

Botolph Street

1770 to 1830

a brewer

In 1770, Robert Tabor is shown in an indenture as holding a lease connected with the Plough public house in St Botolph's parish. In 1807 he purchased the Coggeshall Brewery. Then appears Samuel Tabor and Robert Tabor junior, who was also a baizemaker. Samuel Tabor died in February 1830, age 78 and was buried in Lion Walk graveyard.

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## Edward THIMBLE

1626

a brewer

Edward Thimble is recorded as a brewer in 1626.

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## TOLLEMACHE and TOLLY COBBOLD

Ipswich

c1980 to date

brewers and owners

Tolly Cobbold were bought by Brent Walker in 1989, who then took over the public house management. The management bought the business from Brent Walker and now operate a brewery business only, with Pubmaster Ltd. handling the public houses.

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## TRUMAN

London

1899 to 1989

brewers and owners

The London brewers, Truman, Hanbury and Buxton purchased many Colchester pubs from Walter Edward Grimston in 1899. They already had many pubs in Essex and Grimstons added to this number. Following concerns by the government over the brewery giants operating a monopoly, to the detriment of the customer, Trumans transferred the ownership of their public houses to Grand Metropolitan Estates in 1989. Many of the houses then became Watney Truman, then Innpreneur, then owned by a Japanese bank, until, in the late 90s, Criterion Management. Just what Ben Truman, the original brewer, that started the great brewing concern of that name, would have made of it all, one can only guess!

We are fortunate that a collection of photographs of all of their houses (not just those in Colchester) from the late 1920s to early 1930s has survived, now in private ownership, taken by the company as a record. Some of these are reproduced in this book, a unique record of houses that are now long since gone under the housebreaker's hammer.

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### TUPPER

Head Street

1805

a brewer

John Tupper is recorded as a brewer in Holden's Directory of 1805/7.

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### TURNER & GRUBB

St Mary's

Head Street?

c1811 - c1831

a brewer

These brewers are shown in Holden's directory for 1811. William Turner is recorded as a brewer in 1831.

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### UNIQUE PUB COMPANY

1999

an owner

This company owned the Brewers Arms in 1999. They took over from Innpreneur.

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### WHITBREAD

nation-wide

1897 to 1992

brewers and owners

Whitbread have been present in Colchester since 1897 when they owned the Gaiety and then in 1902, the Forester's Arms. They owned the King's Arms in the 1990s, one of their Hogshead premises. They became one of the country's largest owners of public houses.

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### WHITE

Head Street

1790

a brewer and publican

T White was known to have brewed beer on the premises of the King's Head Inn as a sale of his possessions in 1790 listed the brewing equipment that he held. This included:

	£	s	d
large brewing copper as fixed	10	12	0
mash tub and coolers, wort troughs, etc.	9	0	0
dray cart	2	6	0
50 bushels of malt	10	12	6
66 pounds of hops	2	15	0
17 casks with a capacity of 1324 gallons and containing 943 gallons of strong beer	23	4	0
11 casks of table beer containing 276 gallons	4	14	0
10 casks of small beer containing 150 gallons	3	5	0
malt mill	1	4	0

The principal buyers of these goods were Messrs Andrews, Hunt and Tabor, all brewers.

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### WICKS

Colchester

1872 to c1930

an owner

James Wicks and Sons owned the mystery licensed premises, the Wheatsheaf, in High Street (now the Market Tavern.)

## Two Brightlingsea Pubs

The Brewer's Arms of unknown date and the picture in poor condition but better than none at all. The chance find of this picture willed an important gap in Brightlingsea's museum collection.



The Victoria of unknown date

