

## Chapter 5

### The A to Z History of Premises

The following is an index of all taverns, inns, public houses, beer houses, hotels with public bars, wine bars, and the like, that have been discovered during our research. In general, the definition of the type of premises has been loosely classified, being chosen in accordance with their antiquity or through a personal feel for the sound of the house. In general, the older, smaller premises are termed as taverns, whilst the older larger ones are described as inns. The term alehouse is used if they first appear by name in the alehouse recognisances, despite the fact that they might well have been described as taverns or inns. Later premises might be shown as beerhouses or public houses or hotels or simply - pubs! The words; house, hostelry, boozery, local, etc. are also used on occasion, which just goes to show how the common vernacular has dealt with the subject over the years. For convenience, the word 'pub' is used as a general term.

The index that follows lists each individual pub in alphabetical order with cross references to pubs with known previous, or later, names. The section at the back separately covers the 1970s, 80s, 90s and 'noughties' wine bars and some of the later café bars. The general format followed is as follows:

1. The name of the premises.
2. The parish that it was located within (where known). Many years ago, pubs were located according to the parish in which they were located and which centred on the church by that name. What use did the authorities have for a more precise description in a day when the town was much smaller than today and when people did not travel far from home? The parishes were areas, ostensibly centred around churches of that name, as follows:

All Saints	church in the High Street and now the natural history museum
Berechurch	area to the south of the town
Greenstead	area to the east of the town
Holy Trinity	church in Trinity Street and now (2012) a Christian youth centre
Lexden	area to the west of the town
Mile End	area to the north of the town
Saint Botolphs	church to the south east of the town wall and still in use as a place of worship
Saint Giles	church near to St John's Green and now a masonic hall
Saint James	church at the top of East Hill and still in use as a place of worship
Saint Leonard	church at the foot of Hythe Hill and still open as a church
Saint Martin	church in West Stockwell Street and now redundant as a church
Saint Mary at the Walls	church on Balmerne Hill and now known as St Mary's Art Centre
Saint Mary Magdalen	church in Magdalen Street, the church demolished in January 1995
Saint Nicholas	church in the High Street, but demolished in the 1950s
Saint Peter	church at the top of North Hill and still used for worship
Saint Runwald	church in the High Street and demolished in the 1860s

(St Runwald and St Peter parishes were amalgamated in 1873.)
3. The address (where known). Gradually, pubs were also identified by the street name in which they were in and later still (around 1850), a street name and number was used.
4. The date range when the premises was in business (where known). Many pubs are first mentioned in the alehouse recognisances which are useable from 1764 only. Therefore, if this date is shown, it is probable that the pub is much older than that. It is simply that earlier references have not been discovered. Again, if a date of 1872 is shown, this refers to the later series of licensing records which commence in that year, and would usually mean that the premises is older than that date.
5. What type of house it was in its early days. If the pub is first shown in the alehouse recognisances, then it is called an alehouse, or an inn if of a larger size, such as the Red Lion or the George. There were many beerhouses in the town after 1830, some of which later became public houses, and this section differentiates between them and those with full licences.

6. If the premises exist today, what its function is (where known). This section tells whether the pub is still in business, whether the building exists but the pub does not or whether its location is unknown or uncertain.
7. The introductory paragraph discusses the meaning of the name. Quite often, the reason for the naming of the pub is linked to the locality or to its owner's personal circumstances. Conversely, no reason at all has been discovered, this having been lost with time. This section endeavours to explain the meaning and derivation of a pub's name, some instances being quite unusual.
8. Details that are known about the premises, including owners, anecdotes, building style, etc. The source of this information is very diverse and has come from public records, oral history, newspapers, personal collections and from the author visiting all of the pubs that exist today, homing-in on the older 'regulars' who always seem to have their favoured spot.
9. If it had an earlier or later name, a cross reference is given to the other(s). Some pubs have had several names over the years. The King Coel came full circle and became the Old King Coel. The Fox and Fiddler has had a few names too! And then of course, there are the more recent bars which seem to change their name with considerable regularity.

### Additional Notes:

- ? indicates that the information is not known or in some doubt.
- c circa or approximate date for when exact details are unknown

Wine Bars, Café Bars and Bar Cafés are covered in a separate section of the book as they are not strictly pubs, nor would they claim to be. They are included however, as many men and women about town use them in a similar manner to the town's pubs.

See chapter 6 for maps showing the precise locations of over 100 premises.

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Note: wherever there would have been a big space with nothing in it, we have inserted random information, as below's example. You will find all manner of these snippets, here and there; items about ratting clubs, cock-fighting, old postcards, out-of-area photographs, etc. Far better than an empty space, we thought. We hope that you do too!

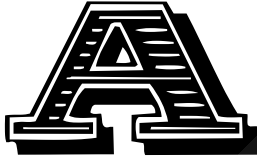
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### Pewter Tankards

A selection of mainly Victorian pewter tankards. A ½ Pint mug in the front, a Quart mug far right and four Pint mugs remaining. All are stamped with the VR weights and measures proofing mark, some with maker's names, some with the owner's name. Under the VR stamp, is a number that gives an indication of from what area of the country (207 for Colchester) the mug comes. Sometimes an ER stamp is added as the mugs moved into the Edwardian period.



Can you imagine using a pewter mug in this day and age? Apart from the fact that pewter is a mixture of lead and tin and is therefore poisonous, these mugs were often ill treated by their users; the softness of the metal leading to distortion and wrong capacities. But there has to be a kind of romance associated with their use; a Treasure Island image of pirates and ruffians and smugglers and dodgy deals. So what has changed?



*There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man,  
by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn.*

Dr Samuel Johnson

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### Abbey Arms

St Giles

St John's Green

CO2 7HA

1915 to date

a public house

The name of this pub would have come from its close proximity to Colchester's Norman period Benedictine abbey which was located to the south of St Johns Green. All that is now left of the abbey is its imposing abbey gate, probably built originally to intimidate the townsfolk - and more recently serving as the entrance to the garrison's officer's club (until that was destroyed by fire in 2010). The gate was severely damaged by cannonball fire, and exploding ordnance, during the siege of 1648 but was restored extensively during the Victorian period.



The Abbey Arms - c1932

The pub was built as a beerhouse in 1915 by Trumans in an architectural style typical of the time, replacing an earlier beer house which stood on the same plot and which was known as the Gardener's Arms. A picture of this earlier pub was hanging up behind the bar in 2011.

Past incumbents have been:

1925  
1933

William Jackson, a beer retailer  
Michael Albert O'Halloran, a beer retailer

- Kelly's Directory  
- Kelly's Directory

E W Jackson, licensee of the Abbey Arms for over 13 years, died in 1954 - Black Eagle Journal

This pub obtained its full publican's licence (ie. no longer a humble beer house) in 1949. In 1968, part of its land was sold to make way for the Southway development. In 2011, popular landlord Mr John Kemp had the distinction of being the longest serving publican in the town, having come to the Abbey Arms in 1979. He decided to retire after



almost 32 years at the pub<sup>1</sup>. The following picture is of Mr Kemp still in 2007, after almost 28 years. Note the optics and ephemera behind him. Always a good indicator of a long serving landlord!



Mr John Kemp of the Abbey Arms, longest serving pub landlord in Colchester in 2011 (since retired).

See also the **Gardener's Arms**

### Abbey Gate Inn

St Giles

Stanwell Street

c1860 to 1869

a beer house

precise location unknown

The name of the pub would again have been taken from the nearby abbey gate. It was mentioned in an article by Joseph Phillips<sup>2</sup> in 1906 (detailed elsewhere), thus predating the current Abbey Arms and therefore presumably a separate house.

The earliest reference that we have found to this house is in a newspaper article covering Licensing Day in 1860<sup>3</sup>. Mr Church appeared before the magistrates on behalf of Mr W Tyler, beer retailer, supporting the application for a properly licensed public house in the area on the basis that there was not another for a considerable distance and that the camp was to increase in size in the near future. The house belonged to a Mr Salmon and the application was supported by the rector of the parish and many respectable inhabitants. The application was unopposed and was granted. The 1861 census shows William Tayler, inn keeper, age 55, born Southminster, Essex, living with his wife Elizabeth, aged 54, daughter Angelina, an assistant barmaid, aged 19, two sons, a niece and two lodgers – one a tailoress aged 18! The house is also shown in Kelly's trade and Post Office directories, with Tyler (or Tayler) in residence, from 1862 to 1867.

Sadly, things appear to have gone downhill from there. Constable Knott of the Metropolitan Police, who had been appointed under the terms of the third Contagious Diseases Act of 1869, was recorded in a local newspaper on the

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr 2011

<sup>2</sup> ECT – 16<sup>th</sup> Jun 1906

<sup>3</sup> Essex and Suffolk Gazette – 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1860

occasion of the licensing sessions<sup>1</sup>, that this house was frequented by 'prostitutes and bad characters.' Four girls had admitted to him that they were prostitutes and had been taken to the Lock Hospital. Knott stated that one of the girls had been brought up for the purpose of prostitution from childhood, and was living at the Abbeygate as a 'servant'. The matter was discussed at length. Not surprisingly, the licence application was refused by the magistrates. In 1870<sup>2</sup>, George Cramer, a German, applied for a full licence, which was refused. On applying for a beerhouse certificate, this was also refused.

No more is known of the house, nor whether the building still stands.

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### Admiral Duncan

see **Duncan's Head**

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### Admiral Nelson's Head

St Martin

West Stockwell Street

The name of the pub would have come from England's famous 19th century sailor, who was later to become more commonly known as Lord Nelson.

see **Nelson's Head**

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### Adnan's Jazz Bar

St Botolph

14 Military Road

1993 to c2000 (map 21)

originally a pub

now a restaurant

The name of this pub was taken from the owner of this house, Mr Adnan Ademodlu, a local entrepreneur who also owns other licensed premises in the town.

This house was previously the 'Prince of Wales', which closed in 1990 and subsequently fell into wrack and ruin, with much damage caused by squatters. Mr Ademodlu extensively refurbished the 17th century timber framed building and fitted it out to a high standard and offering jazz music and Turkish cuisine<sup>3</sup>. In the late 1990s it had become a club renowned for lap dancing and other exotic (or is it erotic?) activities. It took the name of Forin. By 2006, the building had been converted to a Thai restaurant. Perhaps Colchester wasn't ready for lap dancing.

previously the **Prince of Wales**

pre 1764 to 1990 (map 21)

an alehouse



The Prince of Wales sign  
in the 1990s

This pub appears in the alehouse recognisances for the full period from 1764 until 1819 and then in trade directories throughout the 19th century. In 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to Daniells in 1881. The large timber framed building together with its outbuildings are of a great age, and it probably first started trading as a pub early in the 18th century. In 1939 the house passed to Trumans who had it until it closed around 1984.

In 1922<sup>4</sup>, a newspaper recorded a meeting of the licensing sessions where it was stated that the house had been well conducted and that it did the biggest trade of all the pubs. The average trade was stated as being 287 barrels of beer and 190 1-3 gallons of spirit. The licence was renewed, despite the police stating that there were 24 licensed houses within 400 yards of this one and that this was not suitable from the point of view of police supervision.

In 1957<sup>5</sup>, another newspaper reported that 'Mr and Mrs E Mead of the Prince of Wales, were presented recently with a shield by CSM Frank Towery of the West Yorkshire Regiment. The shield was from the WO's and Sergeants' Mess, Ist

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869

<sup>2</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1870

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 1993

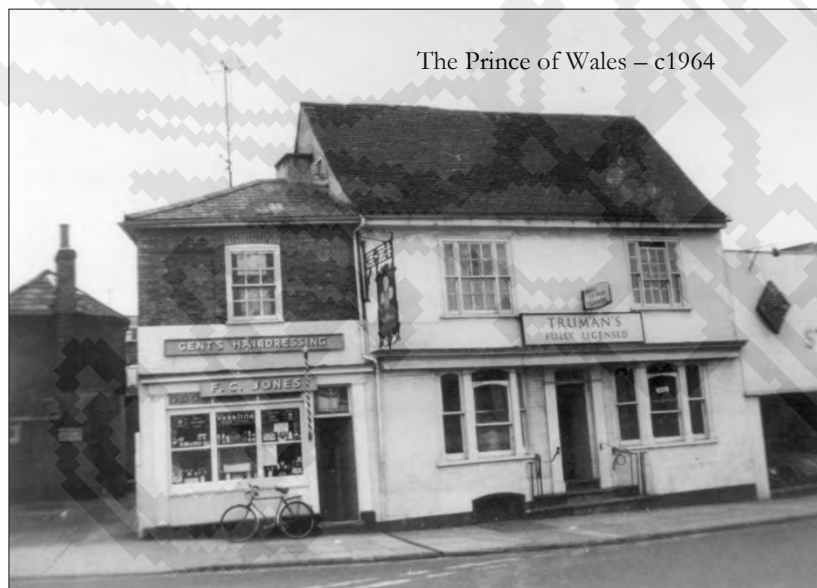
<sup>4</sup> ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Jun 1922

<sup>5</sup> ECS – 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 1957

Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment. When the regiment arrived in Colchester last year, the sergeants found that they had no mess, and made their home at the Prince of Wales. The shield and a triple row of pearls which was presented to Mrs Mead, were tokens of the sergeant's gratitude for the co-operation and hospitality of Mr and Mrs Read.'



This above picture of the Prince of Wales came from Mrs Betty Day and is dated 1935 and was taken on the occasion of the king's silver jubilee.  
See the Blue Boar for more information.



The Prince of Wales – c1964

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1822 to 1824	Thomas Marriott	Pigot's
1828 to 1839	William Mason	Pigot's
1845	William Mason, a farrier	Post Office
1848	William Mason	White's
1851	William Mason, a shoeing smith	Post Office
1851	William Mason, a widower, blacksmith employing 9 men, aged 56, born Colchester	Census
1855	W. Mason	Kelly's
1862 to 1867	George William Mason, Shoeing Smith & Wheelwright	Kelly's and Post Office
1870 to 1871	Peter George Wallis	Kelly's and Post Office
1874	Mrs. Eliza Wallis	Kelly's



1878	William Mills, a wheelwright	Kelly's
1882	James Howard	Kelly's
1886 to 1908	William Howard, a blacksmith	Kelly's
1891 and 1901	William Howard, publican & blacksmith, aged 46 & 56, born Thorrington	Census
1912	Edward Caveney	Kelly's
1917	Thomas Charles Garwood	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	William Day	Kelly's

After the pub closed in 1990, it rapidly fell into a ruinous state, attracting vandals and squatters. In one unfortunate incident in 1992<sup>1</sup>, the newspapers reported that police were waiting to question what was left of a bungling burglar after he had tried to steal copper pipework from the derelict pub. He caused a fire with a gas explosion and the fire damaged part of the building.

After standing derelict for a period, the premises was acquired by Mr Adnan Ademodlu, a local business man with other licensed premises, who converted it into Adnan's Jazz Bar in 1992. For the purpose of recording pub history, we end our record at this point. It had become a bar and went on to enjoy an inglorious life under various guises, as a lap dancing venue and various restaurant enterprises.

also known as the **Feathers**

The pub was also known as the Feathers, because of the Prince of Wales' plume that filled the sign.

### After Office Hours

(St Runwald originally)  
St Nicholas later  
a public house

128 High Street  
CO1 1SP

2004 to date

The pub took this name around 2004, having previously been know as the Faunus and Firkin. The architecture of the building is of a high standard, built in the 1900s, in a time of great creativity throughout the nation. The style could be described as 'Art Deco,' with its beautifully made windows and careful attention to detail in the stonework.



These two pictures show the building and its sign, from when it was known as the Lamb, in 1991.



<sup>1</sup> EG – 31<sup>st</sup> Mar and 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 1992

Previously known as the **Faunus and Firkin**

1998 to 2004

The name taken for this house is based on the naming practice employed by the Firkin Brewery chain. All of their houses took names beginning with 'F' or 'Ph'. The faunus is a latin rural deity whose attributes bear a strong analogy to those of Pan and with whom he is sometimes identified. His appearance is like that of a satyr, with the legs of a goat, budding horns and goat-like ears. It is unknown exactly why such a mythical beast was chosen to represent the brewery for Colchester.

previously known as the **Lamb**

1985 to 1998

The pub reverted to the name of the Lamb in the 1980s, after a further refurbishment and became one of the most popular town pubs, with several large television screens showing the latest music videos. Its name was modified to the Lamb Alehouse in 1994 and the bar area altered extensively, in keeping with a general trend in the pub trade to revert to the 'old style'. The pub and sign pictures are from 1991. Note the stone lamb at high level in a niche.

Previously known as the **Bay and Say**

1971 to 1985

The pub took the name of the Bay and Say in 1971 after owners Ind Coope had spent £20000 on refurbishment in an attempt to change its image as a 'rough' house. There was a serious fire at the pub in September 1978<sup>1</sup>, which meant it had to be closed for a period. The standard of clientelle did not improve and it underwent another change of name and image altering in 1985.

Previously known as the **Lamb**

1905 to 1971 (present building)

This pub was built at a similar time to the present day Town Hall and replaced the previous Lamb that stood a few properties along the High Street to the east. That building was demolished. See under section L for further details.



The picture is from an old postcard c1910 of the Grand Theatre, with the Lamb to its right.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1978



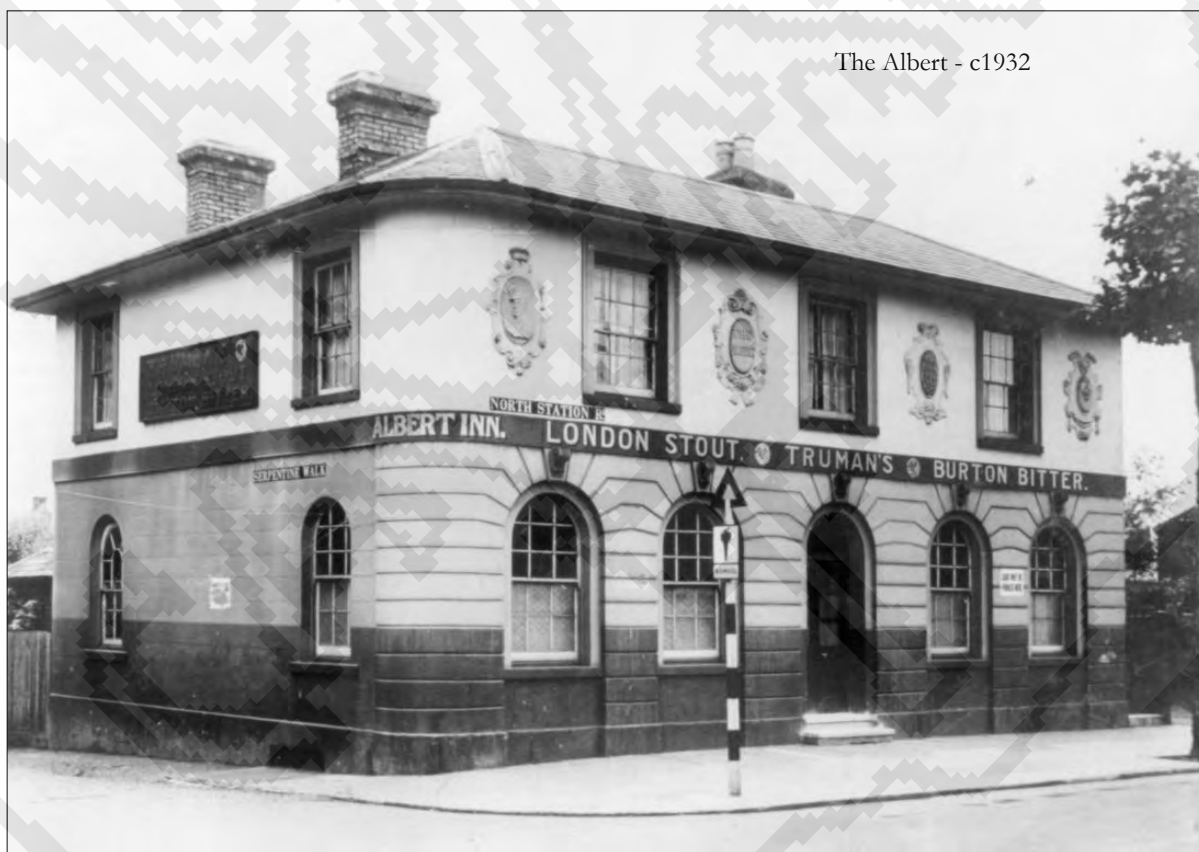
Various trade directories give the following landlord information:

1907	C. S. Walker	Benham's
1908	Charles Stuart Walker	Kelly's
1912	Philip Brown	Kelly's
1914 to 1917	George R Burling	Kelly's
1925	Charles H. Cook	Kelly's
1933	Harold King	Kelly's
1937	F R Weedon	Kelly's

By 1940 it was in the hands of the Colchester Brewing Company and Ind Coope who held it until recent years. The licensing records show that there were nine changes of licensee from 1963 to 1969, suggestive of troubled times. We have not searched newspapers for this period but the guess would be that they would reveal an unhappy period for this public house.

<b>Albert Inn - 1</b>	St Peter	52 North Street
1848? to 1932 (map 87)	a public house	demolished

The name of the pub is a patriotic one, having come from Queen Victoria's consort, her beloved and much mourned Prince Albert.



The Albert - c1932

It is first mentioned in a trade directory of 1848, later being owned by Grimston who sold it to Trumans in 1899.

Various census and directory entries give the following information:

1848	Jemima Yaddon	White's
1851	Michael Cooper Godden	Post Office
1851	Michael C Godden, innkeeper, age 24, born Polstead	Census
1852	M. C. Godden	Kelly's
1862 to 1874	James Pearson	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	James Pearson, publican, age 59	Census

1878 to 1886	Herbert James Shead	Kelly's
1881	Herbert J. Shead, Innkeeper, age 39, born Colchester	Census
1891	William Smith, inn keeper, age 58	Census
1894 to 1899	William Smith	Kelly's
1901	Thomas Butcher, Inn Keeper, age 58, born Monks Eleigh	Census
1902 to 1914	Thomas Butcher	Kelly's
1917 to 1925	Raymond T. Snelling	Kelly's
1933	William J. Jackson	Kelly's

In 1932, the owners were granted a removal of the licence to the present much larger house, some 100 metres to the north, where it continued with the same name. This building was later demolished and ingloriously replaced with a motor vehicle repair premises.

### Albert - 2

Cowdray Avenue

1934 to date a public house now a restaurant and hotel chain

Originally owned by Trumans when it was first opened in 1934, coincidental with the building of the new northern bypass road now known as Cowdray Avenue, it was later sold to Whitbreads. Its first licensee was Mr Lewis William Edward Marden.

The present building does not appear on the Lexden Manor Estate Map dated 1931, so it must have been built by 1932. Bacchus paid it a visit in 1963<sup>1</sup>.

The main business of the house is centred around the restaurant trade, although a saloon bar is provided for local custom. The car park was used for the addition of a hotel around 2005.

### The Ale House

St Giles

82 Butt Road  
CO3 3DA

2011 to date (map 73) a public house

A simple name for a pub, describing completely its function. From earliest times, pubs as we know them today, were known as alehouses. Of course, ale is a beer that is brewed from malted barley and with the addition of yeast. It was later 'improved' by the addition of hops. Ale, along with bread, was an important source of nutrition in medieval times and, due to the preservative effect of the brewing process, made it safer to drink than water. The intoxicating power of ale was an added benefit, some might say. To go further than this would be a step beyond the aim of this book, and so we must leave it for others, upon which subject, to wax lyrical.

The Dragoon underwent extensive refurbishment and was renamed as 'The Ale House' and re-opened after two years of closure in November 2011, under the firm and experienced guiding hands of Fred and Hazel Veasey, also of the Bricklayers Arms in Bergholt Road. Mr and Mrs Veasey knew this pub well, having been tenant landlords of it from 1989 to 1994. They were concerned that this fine old house could be demolished and turned into flats. So they approached the owners Adnams Breweries with an offer, and which was accepted.<sup>2</sup>

previously known as the **Dragoon**

c1863 to 2011

At the licensing sessions in 1863<sup>3</sup>, this beerhouse was granted a full licence. The occupier was Mr Edward Orphin. This was a new pub for the town, no doubt opened to attract the thirsty custom of soldiers from the newly formed and nearby garrison. This house appears in the licensing records of 1872, with no mention in trade directories of 1870. It was then owned by John Hart Bridges and Henry Cuthbert of Ipswich, who sold it to Osborne in 1884, who later sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. It later passed to Ind Coope who in turn sold it to Adnams, who were the owners until 2011. Adnams had previously stated that they wanted to sell six of their pubs, causing great concern at another town pub, the British Grenadier.

<sup>1</sup> CE 11<sup>th</sup> Apr 1963

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011

<sup>3</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1863



The Dragoon (above), around 1920, with Mr Thomas William Wharton, at the door.  
This picture kindly provided by Mr Ian Cook of Aldburch in 1999.  
Mr Wharton was his great grandfather.



The Dragoon in 1991

The following information comes from various trade directories and census records:

1867	Edwin Orphan	Post Office
1870 to 1871	Thomas Gibson	Kelly's
1871	Thomas William Gibson, publican, age 61, born Colchester together with his wife, two daughters, a grandson and a lodger	Census
1874 to 1878	Mrs. Thomas William Gibson	Kelly's
1881	Thomas Griffiths, Publican, age 55, born Cheltenham together with his wife, a nephew and a servant	Census
1882	Thomas Griffiths	Kelly's
1886	Amos Lionel Green	Kelly's
1891	Richard Daves, publican and wheelwright, age 36, born Barnsley together with his wife, two daughters and a boarder	Census



1901	Samuel Fuller, Licensed Victualler, age 41, born Colchester together with his wife and three children	Census
1902	Samuel Fuller	Kelly's
1908	William E. Parren	Kelly's
1912 to 1917	Thomas Peacock	Kelly's
1925	Walter Howarth	Kelly's
1933	George F. Healey	Kelly's
1937	Jn Coupe	Kelly's

This pub was visited by Bacchus in 1964 when George and Margaret Oliver held the licence. He gave it his customary treatment of what has now become a fascinating snapshot in time.<sup>1</sup> It is understood that there is a ghost, simply referred to as the Grey Lady, apparently a Victorian lady who was fond of horses, the stable yard originally having been around the back of the pub.

The Dragoon closed in July 2010<sup>2</sup>, with the change of football ground of Colchester United football club in 2008. The pub had relied on trade from football fans. The landlord was Mr Andy Duncan. The Drury Arms was similarly hit by the drop in trade. After a period of closure and with the rot setting in, a bold step was taken to open it again, under the control of Mr Fred Veasey, landlord of the Bricklayer Arms on Bergholt Road.



Although the newspapers didn't mention it, the pubs trade was also affected by the opening of the Fat Cat across the road, which soon became a firm favourite with real-ale enthusiasts. The Dragoon took the new name of 'The Alehouse' in 2011.

The two pictures of a tankard show a typical pewter tankard of the 1860s, when Edwin Orphin was the landlord. The ½ pint tankard is inscribed, 'E. Orphin, Dragoon Inn'. It also has various proof marks that were required by law to ensure that correct measures were given. See Chapter 3 for more details.

### Alexandra

St Mary at the Walls

Head Street

c1862 to 1913 (map 76)

a beerhouse

now a shop



The naming of this pub would most probably have come from Princess Alexandra, wife of the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII, whom he married in 1863.

The premises was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company, who closed it in 1913. It later became the Navy and Army Stores.

An old photograph that has survived showing the licensee Mr Arthur Wheaton standing outside with the logo 'Noted Stout House'. The quality of the picture is too poor for reproduction but another picture taken of the Post Office does show the Alexandra in the year 1887 (as shown) on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Two angelic little boys stand by the VR postbox, no doubt bribed by the photographer (G A Oldhams 1870 to 1898,) with signs also declaring the 'Jubilee of the Electric Telegraph' and 'Colchester, the Birthplace of Electricity,' a reference to the pioneering work of William Gilbert, a good few years earlier. The photograph shows the windows of the Alexandra having inscriptions which read 'Bridges and Co, Fine Ales' and 'Falcon Brewery, Combe, Delafield.'

<sup>1</sup> CE – 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 1964

<sup>2</sup> G – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul 2010

This house was much discussed in the licensing magistrates court and reported in newspapers. In 1869<sup>1</sup>, Mr Jennings of Ipswich applied for a licence on behalf of Jeremiah Cranfield, stating that he was, 'a cooper and a fishmonger as well as keeping a beershop, had lived where he did now for 17 years and, during 7 of that time had kept a beershop without a complaint'. Mr Cranfield said that, if the licence was granted, he would close an upstairs room which he used as a tap room. Despite some excellent references from local inhabitants and churchmen, the application was refused, leaving him free to trade as a beer house. There does appear to be some prejudice in this matter, probably based on local brewers disliking the Ipswich brewer's influence in the town.

Various census entries give us the following information about its landlords.

1871	Jeremiah Cranfield, cooper, age 50, born Colchester	Census
1871	Hannah Cranfield, wife & fishmonger, age 53, born Colchester	Census
1881	Susannah Robinson, Beerhouse Keeper, age 35, born Colchester	Census
1901	Frederick Harman, Publican, age 41, born London	Census

A story was told by Mr Graham Bober, an ex-mayor of Colchester, about the murder of the landlord's daughter by a railway worker from Chelmsford, around the year 1845 (uncorroberated). No further details are known but, he went on to say that her ghost was so active on these premises that it had to be exorcised in the 1950s. However, Mr John Collins, proprietor of the Navy and Army Stores, confirmed that he had known of her for a long time, although they had never met, his grandfather having bought the property in 1939. To his certain knowledge, the ghost had never been exorcised, and he felt that he 'would quite miss her' had she been so treated.

Mr Collins carried out some research into the history of the building. A survey by an expert showed that some old roof timbers in the rear of the building possibly dated from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest deeds are dated 1858, when Jeremiah Canfield, a basketmaker, mortgaged the property. It was sold in 1863 to John Hart Bridges, a brewer of Ipswich. By 1867 it was known by the name of the Alexandra, a beerhouse, when it passed into the ownership of Bridges, Cuthbert and Company, brewers of Ipswich. John Baynes was the licensee in 1884, followed by W Cousins. In 1913, the house was sold by auction at the nearby Wagon and Horses, together with five other previously licensed premises. It was sold on condition that it could not be used as a pub. It became a government surplus outlet, known as the Navy and Army Stores in 1920. The building still stands.

<b>Alma Inn</b>	St Botolph	34 Military Road
c1865 to 1925 (map 93)	a public house	now retail premises

The name of the pub would have come from the commemoration of the allied victory over the Russians in the Crimean War in 1854. The Alma was the river which the British and French armies crossed to make their attack. The pub was on Military Road and close to the army barracks, making it a firm favourite with soldiers.

Various sources give us the following landlord information:

1870 to 1871	James Francis	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	James Crane, publican, age 35, born Melton, Suffolk	Census
1874	James Crane	Kelly's
1878	Jacob Brockman	Kelly's
1881 and 1891	Thomas Bunn, Licensed Victualler, age 54 and 64, born Tenby, Pembroke	Census
1886 to 1895	Thomas Bunn	Kelly's
1898 to 1908	Oliver Joseph Holder	Kelly's and Benhams's
1901	Oliver J Holder, Licensed Victualler, age 54, born Newhaven, Sussex	Census
1912	Walter James Vaughan	Kelly's
1914 to 1917	James Bourne	Kelly's

This pub is shown in licensing records by this name from 1884, owned by Daniells who acquired it under its earlier name of the Red, White and Blue in 1881 and who owned it until its closing in 1924.

It is unsure when the change in name came about as the 1876 map of Colchester shows it as the Alma, but the licensing records of 1876 show it as the Red, White and Blue.

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1869

Also known as the **Red, White and Blue**

c1862 to c1885

The licensing magistrates were told in 1865<sup>1</sup> by owners Messrs Nicholls, that this house was closing down to be converted to a private dwelling and that the nearby Globe would like to have its licence transferred. This did not happen, it would seem. This house was later owned by Steward and Patterson until 1881 when they sold it to Daniells.

Kelly's directory shows it in the occupation of Thomas Frost in 1862.

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### Anchor - 1

St Martin

?

c1760 to c1790

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of the pub would presumably have come from it being on the route to Hythe docks, with many a sailor seeing the sign and stopping for a drink (or two). The sign of the Anchor was originally a religious one, indicating that it was the Christian faith that kept men safe from the storms of life.

This tavern appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to around 1790. It would probably have dated from before this time and no more is known of it or where it stood.

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### Anchor - 2

Stanwell Street

c1848

a tavern

location uncertain

This house is mentioned in a trade directory of 1848. At the licensing session in September 1854 it was recorded that the landlord of the Anchor on St Johns Green, Abraham Garling, had applied to transfer his licence to the Lamb (presumably the one in the High Street). Mr F B Philbrick, a lawyer whose name regularly appeared in the records of the licensing sessions in those times, acknowledged that the reputation of the Anchor did not stand very high and that it was because of Garling's manner of conducting the house that a previous application had been declined by the court. Garling had resided there for four years and had done what he could to reform the character of the house that was situated in a 'very bad locality'. After lengthy pleading, the application was refused. Its precise location is unknown.

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### Anchor - 3

St Botolph

Magdalen Street

see the **Boar's Head**

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### Anchor - 4

St Leonard

Hythe Quay

see the **Spinnaker**

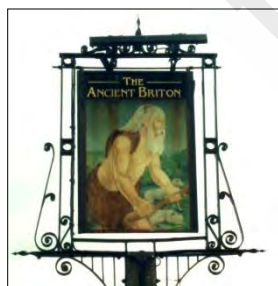
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### Ancient Briton

Shrub End  
CO2 9EH

1956 to date

a public house



The name of the pub is probably derived from Colchester's claim to be the oldest recorded town in Great Britain. An ancient Briton by the name of Boadicea (or was it Boudicca?), led a revolt against Roman rule, in retaliation for attacks upon her family and people, resulting in Colchester being razed to the ground.

This pub was built in the 1950s when the Shrub End Estate was being built. It has been enlarged over the years and is a popular watering hole for the local population.

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1865



A newspaper article<sup>1</sup> of 1962 mentioned the landlord, Mr Stan Wills, and stated that it had 300 'locals'. That requires a lot of bar stools!

It was granted its licence in 1956 with the closing of the Marlborough Head in St Botolph's Street and was owned by Trumans, later to be taken over by Grand Metropolitan. The sign shown is from the 1990s.

This pub has a large catchment area and is a very popular 'local' for the local inhabitants.

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### Angel

St Runwald, St Martin

137 High Street

16th century to 1951 (map 49)

an ancient inn

now offices

The origin of the name of this ancient inn is almost certainly religious. It is traditionally said to have been built as a guest house for pilgrims for whom there was insufficient room at the famous Abbey of St John the Baptist, of which the magnificent gatehouse facing St John's Green is the only visible reminder of its former greatness.



The following is based on articles written by the late Gerald Rickword with some additions by the author.

The earliest reference to the house is found in the will of Matthew Rede, who died in 1517, and left to his daughter Joan, 'my lytell tenement sett next the Angel of the market place in Colchester.' Its importance a century later may be gauged by it being appointed in 1603 one of 'ye only three wine taverns' in the town 'being ancient Innes and Taverns.' Certain entries in the Corporation accounts at the same period also tell of its reputation for good cheer.

Imprimis for the Bayliffe and Aldermen their dynner at the Angell the XXX of September 1600, 35 shillings

No small sum in those days! During the following year we find:

Item for a supp at the Angell the XII die of July iii li xs  
[£3 10s].

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1962 and CE – 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1964

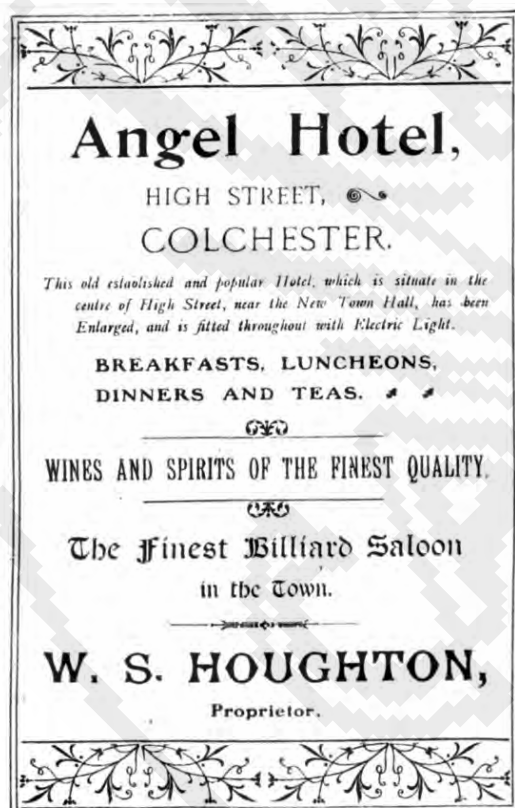
Other memories are of the meetings of the vestrymen of St Runwald's to settle parish accounts and problems, with an occasional special celebration as in March 1781, when after 'beating the bounds' an item 'Expense at the Angel on day of perambulation £1 18s 0d.' was duly passed and recorded.

But the most enduring memory of the inn is its long association with freemasonry, Angel Lodge, No 51, founded 1735, moving there after its inaugural meeting at the Three Cups, and making it its habitation for over a century at least. The Brethren met there on their hundredth anniversary and after performing their mystic rites, adjourned 'from labour to refreshment' and partook of 'an excellent dinner served up by Brother Strait,' then mine host.

Annual 'Auricula shews', first started in May 1769, when William Fowe succeeded Barker Holton in the tenancy and made the inn a convivial centre for all flower lovers for many years.

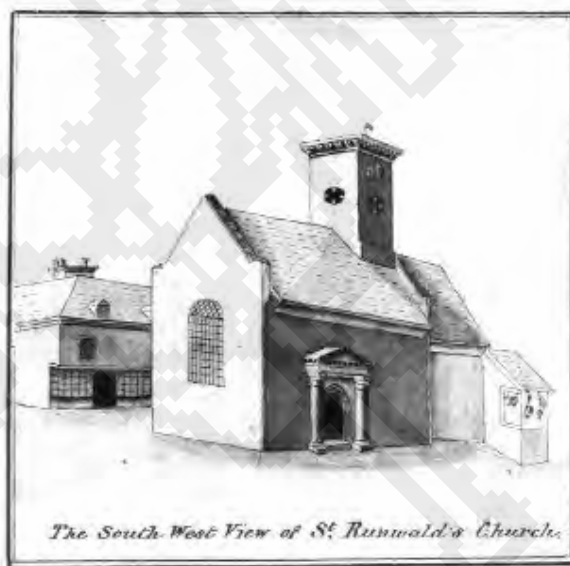
The coming and going of stage waggons - William Wellum of Needham Market, 'with a strong double cart,' drove in regularly as early as 1748, and 'put up at the Angel in the Fish Market' every Saturday, and returned on the following Mondays - and coaches - the 'New Colchester' and 'The Cambridge' - and postchaises contributed to the bustle and excitements of a typical market town inn, which in 1839 was included among the 'ten superior inns and hotels' in Colchester.

The tempo of life slackened following the opening of the railway a few years later, and the Angel, with its memories of the Rabelaisian humours of pilgrims, the pranks of drunken postboys and the gastronomic performances of masons and townsmen, settled down to the humdrum respectability of the Victorian age only relieved by a breath of romance from the house's association with the early years of that star of musical comedy, the beautiful Marie Studholme, and the frolics of American airmen during the second world war.



A trade directory advertisement from 1907

A sketch of St Runwald Church c1814 with the Angel shown in the background.



An old Colcestrian recalled that, around 1900, on Market Day, there used to stand in front of the inn, in faded coloured vest and grimy looking tights 'Mr James Golding of 'Ackney Road, London, 'oo eats glass, swallows stones and dislocates,' and asked expectant onlookers to 'give 'im a 'eart' by throwing coins into his upturned hat before commencing his breath-

taking exhibition. At other times a rival, a sword swallower of renown, occupied the pitch and collected the pennies.

The Angel stood at the corner of West Stockwell Street (previously known as Angel Lane until 1882) and the High Street, but no longer exists as a pub.

It was owned by Nichol and Co. from before 1872 until taken over by Ind Coope in 1923. It was closed on New Year's Eve, 1951 and the site was later to be occupied by council offices which aptly took the name of Angel Court. There were extensive archaeological excavations carried out in 1990, with some interesting finds made, preceding the new building work.



The lower picture was kindly sent to us by Mr Patrick Denney from his private collection. We assume that it dates from 1900 when a foundation stone laying ceremony was taking place for the building of our present Town Hall. The Angel is shown in the background. The picture above this is from wartime, the sandbags protecting the Town Hall being in the picture.



Various sources give us the following landlord information:

1792 to 1794	Thomas Wood	Universal
1811	Philip Hast	Holden's
1822 to 1829	John Smith	Pigot's
1832 to 1823	Peter Clark	Pigot's
1839 to 1852	Samuel Turner	Pigot's and Post Office
1851	Samuel Turner, Innkeeper, age 68, born Tannington, Suffolk	Census
1855	John Turner	Kelly's and Post Office
1862	George Allen	Kelly's
1867 to 1871	Charles Edward Wheable	Kelly's and Post Office
1874	William M. Middleton	Kelly's
1878	Tom Creswell	Kelly's
1881	Frederick H. Watt, Licensed Victuallar, age 29, born Greenwich, Kent	Census
1882 to 1895	James John Hayter	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Walter Bliss	Kelly's
1902 to 1908	William Stockley Houghton	Kelly's
1912 to 1914	Edward Wynne Harvey	Kelly's
1917	Mrs. Septima Phillips	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	Joseph Albert Jones	Kelly's
1937	Ind Coope & Allsopp Ltd	Kelly's

There is now no evidence of the original building which, according to a sketch on a map (shown on the previous page) produced by William Cole and R Hale in 1813, was a low two storeyed, timber framed structure with attics, and wide windows on either side of the door. The present Victorian built brick building shell is that of the later built Angel Inn.

<b>Angel Tap</b>	St Martin	1 West Stockwell Street
c1870 to c1890	a tap room	demolished

The only references found to this premises is in the 1871, 81 and 91 censuses, where the only licensee shown was Samuel Aldous, age 36, licensed victualler in 1891. However, the licensing records make no specific mention of this having a separate licence and so it is assumed that it was a sideline to the main pub business.

<b>Angel</b>	Lexden
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There is a splendid looking timber framed building in the dip of Lexden Road, opposite to where Endsleigh Annexe once stood, that was once known by 'The Sign of the Angel.' No more is known of its history as an inn, other than it is named as such in the deeds, presumably dating from the 16th to 17th century.

<b>Anna G</b>	King Edward Quay
1994 to 1998	a floating bar sailed away

The name of the Anna G was that given to the Dutch barge when it was built around 110 years ago. Who Anna G was is not known.

She was brought across the sea and permission sought<sup>1</sup> by her owners Pasquale Vascetta, proprietor of Pasquale's Restaurant in Balcerne Passage and John Birkett, landlord of the Royal in Butt Road, from the authorities to convert and open it as a floating bistro bar on two levels and with a sun deck. After considerable work was carried out on the vessel, she opened in June 1994.

This was the only bar in town where the room swayed before you started drinking and steadied up as the evening went on. With all the others it happened in reverse! For whatever reasons, the venue went into decline and ceased trading in 1998, the vessel rising and falling as the tide dictated, an uncertain future ahead of her.

<sup>1</sup> EG – 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr 1993

# Army and Navy

St Giles

168 Magdalen Street

c1870 to 1907

a beerhouse

demolished

The name of this pub is a simple one, bringing together the names of the two armed forces of that era. Situated on Magdalen Street, the beerhouse would have served customers from both, being more or less equi-distant from the camp and the docks.

**COLCHESTER,**  
Magdalen Street and Military Road.

VALUABLE  
**Freehold Properties**  
RECENTLY KNOWN AS

**THE ARMY AND NAVY**  
Magdalen Street,  
AND  
**THE LORD RAGLAN,**  
Military Road,  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY &+  
**Sexton and Grimwade**  
AT  
The Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, /  
ON  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 1908**  
At six o'clock in the Evening precisely,  
By direction of DANIELL & SONS' BREWERIES, LIMITED.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be obtained of MESSRS. RANKEN FORD, FORD and CUNNEEN, Solicitors, 4, South Square, Grays Inn, London, W.C.1; Messrs. GOODY and SONS, Solicitors, Colchester; and of the AUCTIONEERS, Colchester.

**PARTICULARS.**

LOT 1.  
THE SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT HOUSE  
RECENTLY KNOWN AS  
"The Army & Navy," Magdalen St.

To which it has a frontage of 37ft. 10in. It contains:  
IN THE BASEMENT—Good Cellarage.  
ON THE GROUND FLOOR—Bar, Bar Parlour, Tap Room and Kitchen.  
ON THE FIRST FLOOR—Five Bedrooms.  
There is a spacious Yard with Timber-Built-and-Tiled Stable, Tiled and Corrugated Iron Shed, Stabling and Harness Room, Detached Timber-and-Tiled Stable & Shed, & 2 Outside W.C.'s.  
The Property is well placed in Magdalen Street, and offers an excellent opportunity for any business requiring space.  
It adjoins the Properties of the Colchester Brewing Company on the West, and Mr. C. Downes on the East.  
It is in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Balls at the  
**ANNUAL RENT OF £20,**  
the Tenant Paying Rates and Taxes except Land Tax. The tenancy is determinable by either party after the 15th of December, 1908, by 3 months' notice at any time.

LOT 2  
The Brick-Built-Slated-&-Tiled Property  
RECENTLY KNOWN AS  
"THE LORD RAGLAN,"  
Military Road, 16 feet, including a covered Carriage Entrance; it contains:  
THE BASEMENT—Good Cellarage.  
THE GROUND FLOOR—Entrance Passage, Bar, Taproom, Bagatelle Room, Living Room, Kitchen, Bath Sink and Water laid on.  
THE FIRST FLOOR are Six Bedrooms and W.C.  
THE SECOND FLOOR are Six Bedrooms.

**The Outbuildings**  
Large Walled in Productive Garden.

It adjoins the Properties of Mr. J. F. Gosley, Mr. Gahne, and Mr. Chiddle. The Tenant claims several of the Outbuildings which are not described in the above Particulars.  
The Trade Board outside is not included in the Sale and will be removed by the Vendors.  
It is in the occupation of Mrs. E. A. Johnson at a Barred Rent, and of the estimated Annual Value of £40.  
**THE LANDLORDS PAY ALL RATES AND TAXES**  
The Tenancy is determinable by either party by 3 months' notice at any time. The removal of the licence to sell exciseable liquors heretofore attached to these premises has been refused under the provisions of the Licensing Act, 1904. The Vendors reserve the right to receive and retain the compensation money payable under the provisions of the said Act.

Army and Navy related sale advertisements from 1908

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1871	John E Arnold, Hay dealer & Publican, age 42, born Fordham	Census
1871	Charlotte Arnold, Hay dealer & Publican, age 42, born Wivenhoe	Census
1881	Charles Hurley, Greengrocer & Publican, age 38, born Brumwell, Somerset	Census
1882 to 1886	Charles Hurley, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Thomas Balls, Licensed Victualler, age 40	Census
1902	Thomas Balls, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

The pub was owned by Daniells, who closed it in 1907. A sale catalogue, dated 6th October 1908, is shown on the previous page and which offered this property for sale, together with the Lord Raglan. It once had an annual estimated value of £20 and was described as having good cellarage in the basement. On the ground floor it had, Bar, Bar Parlour, Tap Room and Kitchen. On the first floor were five bedrooms. The premises appear to have been sold to a B Canfield for £210, although the Lord Raglan was withdrawn, presumably not meeting its reserve price. Neither building now exists, the housebreakers having done their work.

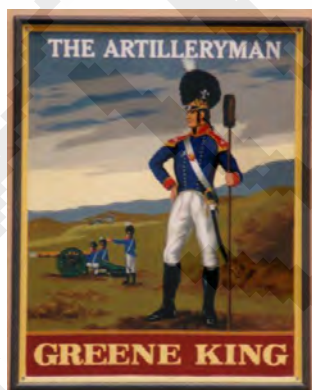
### Artillery Man

St Leonard

25 Artillery Street  
CO1 2JQ

1894 to date (map 35)

a public house



The name of the pub is another reference to Colchester's military links. It would have been built at a time when adjacent land, later to be built upon, was used by the military. When Greene King opened it in 1894, it took the new name of the Artillery Man. Its present (2011) pub sign is a splendid portrayal of just such a soldier.



In a yarnning session in the Britannia in August 1992, the question was asked, 'which were the only two Colchester pubs whereby you could see the Town Hall clock from both public and lounge bars?' The answer given was the Norfolk Arms and the Artillery Man. It was a trick question it seems, as the Artillery Man had an oil painting of the Town Hall hanging up in the lounge bar, that could be seen from the public bar. The next question therefore is, is the Norfolk the only pub in town where this situation exists? The answer cannot now be yes as both bars have been made into one. Such is progress!

Various sources give us the following information about who lived at the premises:

A 1940s picture from Mr Kevin Bond and who was the babe in arms shown.

1862	John Fincham, Beer Retailer (premises not named)	Kelly's
1867	John Fincham	Post Office
1870 to 1886	William Brooker	Kelly's and Post Office
1881	William Brooker, Innkeeper, age 60, born Colchester	Census
1891	James Martin, age 48, licensed victualler and steam engine maker.	Census
1894 to 1912	James Martin	Kelly's
1901	James Martin, Licensed Victualler & Engine Master Fitter, age 53, born Coggeshall	Census



1914 to 1925  
1933 to 1937

Mrs. Eliza Ann Martin  
Albert Whiting

Kelly's  
Kelly's

previously named as the **Artillery House**

1865 to 1894

A new licence was applied for by John Fincham at the Licensing Sessions in 1865<sup>1</sup>. It was situated in, 'an entirely new colony' and was supported by the Rector and Churchwardens of St Leonards. The full licence was granted.

This pub was owned by Steward and Patterson from as early as 1872 when it is first shown in the licensing records. They sold it to Greene King in 1894.

also known as the **Artillery Inn**

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*I always keep a supply of stimulant handy  
in case I see a snake - which I also keep handy.*

W C Fields

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The Anchor at Rowhedge c1935  
see Chapter 7 for more details

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1865



*A tavern is a degree or (if you will) a pair of stairs  
above an ale-house .... it is the busy man's recreation,  
the idle man's business, the melancholy man's sanctuary,  
the stranger's welcome, the Inn's of Court man's entertainment,  
the scholar's kindness, and the citizen's courtesy.*

John Earle – 1628

## Baker's Arms

Magdalen Street

The naming of this pub appears to have come from the fact that a baker was its first landlord and therefore an ideal name for the house.

see **The Beer House**

## Balkerne Gate

Ipswich Road

1998 to date a pub restaurant

The name of this premises is a reference to a unique feature of Colchester's Roman heritage. The, so-named, Balkerne Gate is the best preserved Roman gate in the country, mainly due to it having been blocked-off in antiquity and left to be covered up by the dirt of time. It was re-discovered by Victorian antiquarians and now stands as an important indicator of the town's past.

It is believed that the gate started life as a triumphal arch (most probably venerating the Emperor Claudius), erected by the conquering Romans, shortly after they made their camp here in AD43. After the destruction caused by Boadicea and her Iceni warriors around 61AD, the arch was much modified and incorporated into the 3100 metre long defensive wall that was built around the colonia, so much of which survives today. Later in the Roman period, perhaps around 300AD, the gate was closed and no longer used as a main access route into the town. This very action is the probable reason why so much of it has survived and none of the other main gates have. See also 'The Hole in the Wall' for further reference.

This new watering hole was opened in 1998. Not really a pub as such but it is included because the owners invited the general public to suggest a suitable name, in the manner of a pub's name. The name that it chose is of special importance to Colchester.

## Barley Mow

St Leonard

Hythe Hill, also  
147 Barrack Street

1804 to 1972 (map 37) a public house demolished

The name of the pub was probably not related to any particular Colchester activity and would refer to the gathering of the barley crop, principally grown for the brewing of ale.

The Barley Mow stood on the north side of Hythe Hill, virtually opposite Victor Road. It dates from 1804 when its first licence was granted. From 1872 to 1885 it was owned by Cobbold who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company. It then passed to Ind Coope who later closed it in 1972 due to poor trade.

The Barley Mow once hit the headlines with a tale of love, jealousy and revenge, resulting in an attempted murder. This account is based on an article by Anna Manning writing for a local newspaper and also from the court transcripts<sup>1</sup>.

The Essex Winter Assizes in Chelmsford heard a case in November 1885. Robert Hay, age 60, was a finely built man with a grey curling moustache and a rugged, tanned skin that marks a person out as a seafaring man. For 20 years, he had been a captain in the Merchant Navy and thereafter employed by a shipping company in London. His wife died and he decided to retire to the country, where he took on the Barley Mow Inn in

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1885, EADT – 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 1992

Colchester as his new interest and business. Five months later he decided that the busy pub needed an assistant. He engaged 23 year old Alice Ashenton, taking to her immediately, treating her like a daughter. In fact, he took to her so well that after a week, he proposed marriage to her. Alice was reluctant to accept him, especially as she had been enjoying the company of a certain Charles Collier.

The days passed and quarrels between her and her employer increased. He was jealous of her relationship with Collier, he was worried that people would talk, that her character would be stained. Finally, when she would neither say yes or no to him, he gave her notice saying, 'when you came into my house, I intended to treat you as a daughter and then I offered you the position of wife. Now you will not let me do that so you had better go.' The next day he laughingly retracted - but she too could play his game and gave her notice instead. That evening she said goodnight to Collier as he left the pub and set about preparing the evening meal for Hay and herself. At about 12.15am Hay retired to bed. Soon after Alice followed, intending to go straight to her room. In the upstairs lounge she noticed an open window and went to close it. It was a beautiful moonlit night and she paused to gaze out. Suddenly she heard a fumbling sound at the partition and Hay appeared, much the worse for drink, and waving a revolver. 'Where is he? I'll shoot him!' he blurted out. From two yards away Alice watched as he raised his gun and fired. Once, twice, the third time he hit her in the head and she recalled no more.

Witnesses described how Alice had run across the street to her neighbour who, awakened by her screams, called a doctor. He suspected a fractured skull and sent her to hospital where the bullet which was lodged above her eye was extracted. Hay was in an excited state when he was arrested, denying knowledge of the incident and claiming that Alice had shot herself. He was taken forcibly to the police station screaming that he would never come out alive - and this was nearly so when he was later discovered in his cell attempting to hang himself with torn bedclothes.

The question that the court had to decide was whether Hay intended to kill either Mr Collier or Alice. Hay's evidence was that he owned a revolver for 20 years, acquiring it after entering the Merchant Navy. He had loaded no more than five times during that period. Some days before the incident, he had put a few cartridges in the revolver as Alice had been frightened by a noise during the night. After searching the house he concluded that the noise came from horses stabled nearby. On the night in question, he had heard a sound and had taken his revolver, in the belief that it was empty, and had snapped it at Alice to frighten her. That the revolver was still loaded had completely slipped his mind. Were the jury to believe that? Hay's counsel pointed out how easy it was to forget that one had loaded one's pistol. The pistol was intended to frighten Alice as Hay was angry that she was still up.

Her evidence was moving. Standing pale in the witness box, Alice Ashenton was a handsome girl, tall and slender, dressed in a grey, tight fitting jacket and black hat with a veil. She finished each sentence with the words, 'But he shot me with no intention to hurt me.' 'That is for the jury to decide,' said His Lordship gently. The judge had made up his mind as to the verdict. Whether Miss Ashenton considered Hay's offer of marriage and carried on with Collier at the same time, he did not know. He did not think it altogether impossible as women 'did sometimes think it was a little impressive to keep on flirting with someone else.' The jury returned a verdict of 'Not Guilty.' After the court case, people were whispering that this case would very likely have a romantic conclusion. Did they marry afterwards? It would be nice to know!

We searched the census and marriage records but could find no Alice Ashenton. We found Ashenden – so perhaps the newspapers had got it wrong.

Various trade directories and census records give us the following landlord information:

1822	James Wade	Pigot's
1823-4	James Wade	Pigot's
1828-9	Henry Hart	Pigot's
1831	Henry Hurt	Publican's Licenses
1832-3	Henry Hart	Pigot's
1839	Edward Lay	Pigot's
1845	John Wade	Post Office
1848	John Wade	White's
1851	James Dale, a Cowkeeper	Post Office
1851	John Wade, victualler and carman, age 43, born Colchester together wife his wife, two daughters, two sons, an ostler and a servant	Census
1852 to 1867	James Dale	Kelly's and PO Directories
1861	James Dale, inn keeper, age 49	Census
1870 to 1871	Henry Osborne Langley	Kelly's and PO Directories

1871	Henry Osborne Langley, Carpenter & Beerhouse Keeper age 26, born Colchester, together with his wife and four children	Census
1874	Thomas William Lovell	Kelly's
1878 to 1882	William Youngs	Kelly's
1881	William Young, Licensed Victualler, aged 40, born Norwich together with a servant and a lodger	Census
1886	William Williams	Kelly's
1891	Charles Warner, licensed victualler, aged 47	Census
1894 to 1908	Charles Warner	Kelly's and Benham's
1912 to 1917	Herbert E. Durrant	Kelly's
1925 to 1937	Arthur Knight	Kelly's
1964 to 1969	Sidney George Biscoe	Publican's Licences



The Barley Mow c1969

The above picture was sent to us by Mr Tim Biscoe in 2011. His grandparents, Sid and Marie Biscoe, had the pub from 1964 through to 1970 before retiring. Tim recalls that the pub was frequented by Paxman's employees. He was told by a former Wilson Marriage schoolboy that the school staff nipped in for quick drinks during the lunchtime, whilst the schoolboys, including Tim's informant, would be sneekily handed bottles from outside via a hatch. All sales recorded by Tim's grandma, no doubt!

The local newspapers announced the closing of the pub in 1972<sup>1</sup>, the regulars being very sad to hear the news. They had won acclaim for it for their Tug o'war team. They had won a cup against West Bergholt and another for horse shoe pitching. They had a strong darts team, with the landlady, Mrs Phyllis Baldock, being secretary of the ladies' auxiliary of the Colchester association. She had made a collection of key rings and pennants from all over the world and these decorated the bar. 'It is a very happy pub, but the regulars have been depressed for days because of the pub's closing' said Mrs Baldock who, with her husband Leslie, were to move to another pub in Brightlingsea.

The pub was subsequently demolished, a tyre fitting bay replacing it.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 1972



### Bath Hotel

St Giles

34 Osborne Street  
(or St Johns Street)

c1848 to 1916 (map 17)

a public house

demolished 1940?

The reason for the naming of this pub is not known, although the most probable reason is a reference to the opening of public baths in Osborne Street in 1847 and their re-opening in 1859.

This hotel first appears in a trade directory for 1859 (although an unconfirmed reference<sup>1</sup> by Mr Gerald Rickword that it existed in 1848 when James Dowson was in occupation, has been found). From 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. They closed it in 1916 and the building finally fell under the hands of the demolition contractors around 1940 to make way for the Borough Electrical Department's premises in Osborne Street. The site is now (2015) occupied by a multi storey car park and bingo hall.

The various census and trade directories show the following:

1848	James Dowson, Victualler	White's
1851	Mrs. Frances Wells	Post Office
1851	Frances Wells, widow, innkeeper, age 49, born Monks Soham	Census
1852	Mrs. F. Wells	Kelly's
1855 to 1878	James Britee	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	James Britee, Inn Keeper, age 44, born Colchester with his wife and various children, servants and lodgers	Census
1871	James Britee, Innkeeper, age 52, born Colchester with his wife and various children, servants and lodgers	Census
1881	Joanna Britee, Licensed Victualler, age 63, born Messing a widow with various others	Census
1882	Mrs. Johanna Britee	Kelly's
1886	James George Potton	Kelly's
1891	Ronald G Knight, age 37, hotel keeper	Census
1894 to 1895	Charles Powell Cranmer	Kelly's
1898 to 1914	James John Arnold	Kelly's
1901	James J Arnold, Hotel Keeper, age 66, born St Martins, London	Census

also known as the **Flat Iron**

There is known to have been a pub in the vicinity that was nicknamed by 'locals' as the Flat Iron, due to the wedge shape of the building resembling that of the said domestic implement. It is believed that this was that pub.

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### Bay and Say

High Street

The name of the pub would have come from two types of cloth. Bay was a finer cloth used for garments and say, a coarser cloth, used for blankets or the like. Neither of these cloth types were used to any degree in this country, being mostly exported. The name would have been apt as the pub is located close to where the Flemish weavers lived in the Dutch quarter. The pub's sign showed a man and woman in 16th century dress, each with a bolt of cloth under their arms.

see the **After Office Hours**

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### Bear Inn

East Stockwell Street  
(formerly Bear Lane)

18th century

a tavern

demolished

The name of the pub is an ancient one, probably dating from the days when bears were cruelly baited for public entertainment and which no doubt took place in High Street, where this tavern was situated.

It was located on the north east corner of East Stockwell Street. The illustration on the following page is a picture

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1946

Jas. Dunthorne, jr. del. THE PIEMAN.  
Published March 12, 1792, by Jas. Dunthorne, Colchester.

This illustration is from a hand-coloured impression in the Colchester Museum. The drawing is bad, a defect probably due to the engraver, whose name is not given. The pìeman is no doubt a portrait. He stands in Colchester High Street, near the Obelisk which formerly occupied a position on the north side of the street, opposite the shop now occupied by Mr. J. A. Greenwood. Behind is the Bear Tavern, with the name of its proprietor "Chamberlain." This tavern has now ceased to exist. The pìeman's way of doing business seems to have been by encouraging small boys to toss up a penny. If they could win two tosses out of three, they received their pie. Otherwise the pìeman retained it. The boy represented in the picture as tossing up his penny, is dressed in bright blue clothes, resembling the present dress of the "Bluecoat School" although that school was not established in Colchester until 18 years after the date of the engraving.



sketched by Dunthorne in 1792, entitled 'The Pieman', showing the obelisk that once stood in the High Street (and now stands in Colchester Cemetery as part of the Wire family plot), and behind that the Bear Inn, with the words 'Chamberlain' and 'Ale and Porter'.<sup>1</sup>

The tavern appears to have been a timber framed building, quite unlike the building that stands there today. According to William Wire in 1842, the building was pulled down for a complete re-build and he commented that Roman remains were found.

The Bear first appears by name in the alehouse records of 1764 although it probably dates from well before that. It is shown in trade directories from 1791, when Thomas Chamberlain is given as inn keeper and then later in 1832 when Wicks was in charge. Wicks later removed to the Wheatsheaf a few doors along, but that is another story!

Thee various census and trade directories show the following:

1792 to 1794	Thomas Chamberlain	Universal
1822 to 1829	Elizabeth Goslin	Pigot's
1832 to 1839	James Wicks	Pigot's
1848	Hannah Hardy	White's

Today (2015) the site is occupied by Red Lion Books.

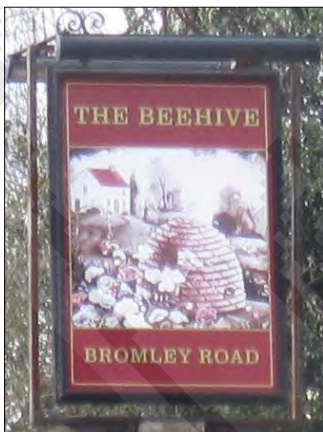
## Beehive - 1

c1865 to date

St Botolph

a Free House

Bromley Road  
CO4 3JG



The name of the pub is a typical one referring to the practice of bee keeping for the production of honey and wax. Perhaps bees were kept by an earlier tenant.

This pub was originally a beerhouse, owned from 1907, at least, by the Colchester Brewing Company, later transferring to Ind Coope and in 1965 to Allied Breweries. In 1949, it was granted its full publican's licence, making it one of the last to convert.

The earliest record that we have found to this house is in a passing comment in a court case in 1870 where a youth had mentioned buying some sheep skins from Mr Wright who lived at the Beehive Inn at Crockleford. As to when

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1994



exactly it had become a beerhouse is unknown, but it must be assumed that it was Henry Wright, a Chelsea pensioner (perhaps a soldier in the Crimean War), who had paid his fee to become a beer house keeper some time before 1870 and presumably as a means to supplement his income. This house was originally three cottages and out in the middle of nowhere at that time, with farmers and agricultural labourers being the main customers.

We have found few references to this house in the various records. Other than in licences and trade directories. The lack of references to it being a beer house in the various census years, suggests that this was very much a secondary income business for the tenant, together with it being well run with little interference or interest from the police. Gradually, over the years, houses were built in the general area and the pub's trade would have increased considerably. The three cottages were amalgamated to create the premises we see today.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1899, there was tragic occurrence near to the pub, with the Beehive being used for the inquest into the death of an engine driver. A large traction engine belonging to nearby Crockleford Mill had been drawing a threshing drum and straw pitcher down the hill in charge of a driver John Ernest Ludkin and three others, whereupon it went out of control of the driver, struck the bank, turned over and crushed the driver to death. The other three were able to escape with minimal injuries. The resulting escape of steam and water had added to those injuries. The deceased's body was removed to the nearby Beehive for the inquest.<sup>1</sup>



In 2015, Mr Alan Evens had clocked up 31 years as publican here, making him the longest serving in the town, having arrived here in August 1984. The picture above was taken one lunchtime in January 2015 with the kind permission of Alan Evens and partner Sally Bidgood.

The various census and directory entries give the following information:

1861	Henry Wright, Chelsea pensioner, age 35, together with wife Eliza and son in law	Census
1871	Henry Wright, Beer House Keeper, age 45, born Frating, together with his wife and stepson	Census
1878	Henry William Maskell, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	Henry W. Maskell, Beerhouse Keeper, age 35, born Copford together with his wife and niece	Census

<sup>1</sup> Essex Standard - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1899

1882 to 1886	Henry William Maskell, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Henry William Maskell, Grocer	Census
1911	Harry William Cawley, bricklayer, age 55, born Suffolk together with his wife and three of their seven children	Census
1914	Harry William Cawley, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1933	Fredk Weaver, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1937	Arthur W Downes	Kelly's
1940	Louis Edward Catchpole	Beerhouse Licences
1949	Frank William George Taylor from 31 <sup>st</sup> March 1949	Publican's Licences
1950	George Donald Kestell Colle	Publican's Licences
1956	Charles Henry Vivian Wilks	Publican's Licences
1962	Reginald Edward Stuchfield	Publican's Licences

## Beehive - 2

37 North Hill

c1870 to 1907      a beerhouse      now a shop

The building still exists and is of great age, with its rounded front and original windows, it has a Dickensian character about it.

The various census and directory entries give the following information:

1881	Charles Joslyn, Beerhouse Keeper, age 29, born Kersey together with his wife, five children and a lodger	Census
1891	Ellen A Johnson, publican, age 50	Census
1894 to 1899	Mrs. Grace Ellison, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1902	Charles William Bowles, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1907	W. A. Edwards	Benham's

It was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1907 when its licence was refused and it closed. The OS map of 1876 shows that, behind the building was an area once known as Cistern Yard, a reference to the source of water that was all important to the nearby Cobbold brewery.

### Beehive - 3

George Street

19th century	a tavern	location uncertain
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All that is known of this house is from an article by Joseph Phillips in 1906. He simply mentions its existence in George Street. No more is known of it.

## Beer House (The)

126 Magdalen Street

1995 to 2012 (map 29) a public house



The Beer House takes its name from the many beer houses which were created as a result of the Beerhouse Act of 1830, brought about by the government of the day trying to change the drinking habits of the nation. Gin drinking was then a very real threat to family life. Beer was less potent than spirits and therefore considered to be preferable. Just about any householder could open a beer house upon payment of a fee. Several of the town's pubs as we see today, started their lives as beer houses.

The name was chosen by the then new owners and licensees, Mick and Jackie Burke (previously at the Britannia), when they discovered that their pub was one of the last of the surviving beer houses in Colchester. The last of these houses were given full public house status in the 1950s.

The pub was purchased by the Essex brewing company Ridleys in 1998 when new tenants, Lindylou and Bill Draper took over. A short while later, the landlord started a leisure activity that became known as BIG BAD BILL'S BIKE BINGE, which involved cycling pub crawls, taking in as many as ten watering holes during an evening, mainly in the directions of Wivenhoe or Rowhedge. By 2008, the pub was owned by Punch



Taverns. When the Drapers moved on, the pub suffered from a lack of trade, as did many others in the town. At the time of publication (2015), it had been closed for some time and being converted for residential use.

previously known as **The Baker's Arms**

1832 to 1995

This house seems to have been among the earliest beer houses in the town, being first mentioned as 'The Baker's Arms' in a trade directory of 1832, shortly after the Act came in to force. It was then in the possession of John Vale, a baker by trade and, no doubt, the obvious reason why the name was taken for the house.



The Baker's Arms sign in 1991.



John Vale is mentioned in earlier directories as a baker only and then in 1845 as licensee of the nearby Yorkshire Grey. Daniel Vale (possibly John's son) was in business as a baker and beerhouse keeper from around 1862 but, by 1871 Robert Bradman, a tailor, had taken it on, only for Daniel Vale to appear again as landlord in the 1881 census.

The Baker's Arms in 1991, with a 'Pay No Poll Tax' slogan on the car outside; a sign of the Margaret Thatcher era.

The 1901 census gives Samuel Smith as landlord. The building was at that time numbered as 126 and 127, representing two individual residences, which have since been incorporated into one.

A record of the Oddfellows' friendly society, in 1904, mentions P.P.G.M. William Gurney Benham being delighted when he conducted the Deputies 'around the handsome building of the Colchester New Town Hall (and it is noteworthy that P.P.G.M. Daniel Vale, aged 86, ascended to the highest point of the building.)'

The Bakers Arms was owned by Colchester brewers, Nicholl and Co. from 1907 to 1919, when it was sold to the Colchester Brewing Company; then passing to the Romford based brewers, Ind Coope, in the 1920s.

The pub gained its full publican's licence in 1956 at the expense of the closing of the Swan at the foot of Hythe Hill. It was therefore not only the first, but also one of the last, original beer houses in Colchester.

The various census and trade directories give the following information:

1832	John Vale	Pigot's
1851	John Vale, Beer Retailer	Post Office
1862 to 1867	Daniel Vale, Baker & Beer Retailer	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Robert Bradman, Tailor & beerhouse keeper, age 41, born Glemsford, Suffolk, Census, together with his wife and two daughters	Census
1881	Daniel Vale, Baker & Innkeeper, age 64, born Colchester together with his wife and sister	Census
1882 to 1898	Daniel Vale, Baker & Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Samuel Smith, Publican, Bakers Arms, age 62, born Derby	

	together with his wife and three children	Census
1902 to 1912	Samuel Smith, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1914 to 1933	Alfred Oliver, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1938 to 1953	George and Patience Gaskin	
1953 to 1954	George Gaskin (junior)	
1955 to 1956	Joe and Ivy Wright	
1956 to 1957	C Bester	
1958 to 1960	J P Douglas	
1961 to 1962	F Stubbs	
1962 to 1965	J Hislop	
1966 to 1968	S E Rose	
1969 to 1982	R J McCausland (Ron and Penny)	
1982 to 1991	John Courtney	
1992 to 1993	Ray Turner	
1993 to 1995	Katie Williams and Linda Thompson	
1995 to 1998	Mick and Jackie Burke (who changed the name to The Beer House.)	
1998 to 2002	Lindylou and Bill Draper	
2002 to date	unknown	

Memories of the pub from the 1930s<sup>1</sup> came from Mrs Ivy Wright, who used to work behind the bar and whose uncles were customers. The card game Solo was played regularly and at the closing time of 10.00pm, the game would often carry on. The police were keen to ensure that closing times were kept to, trying doors to make sure they were locked and, during the war years, making sure that no light was showing. The Solo players would be in the Saloon Bar as it was then called. If the police tried the door, there was dead silence. Sometimes they would knock and would have to be let in to see no one was there - and on those occasions the Solo players had to dash out of the back entrance.

She stated that, 'My family moved from the Waterloo PH (that was then), in 1938 to the Bakers Arms. It remained in our family until 1956. My husband, Joe Wright, was the last of our family to hold the licence for 3½ years. The Besters took it over from us. They were there, I would say, about the same as us. The Bakers Arms was always lively and jovial, especially during the war years'.



This picture was provided by Mrs Wright and is of a pub outing to Southend in 1958. She could name as follows:  
First Line L to R - on the ground Jim Brooks, Florrie Newman, Mrs Thurston, The pianist's wife, Ivy Wright, Rose Larke, Annie Bennett (aunt), Nelly Bennett (cousin), Aggie, Sally Perkins.

Second Line - Cockerel Ennew, Bill Batt, The then pianist's son, ?, Daisy Ennew, Milly Bennett, Patience Gaskin (aunt), Joe Wright, Martha Carnell, ?, Florrie Copsey, ?, Big Con (as he was known).

Top Row - Billy Spindler (brother), Titch Larke, Tony Scrutton, Franky Bennett (cousin), Benny Bird, Mark Bennett (uncle), Mr Copsey, Mr Thurston, Gunner Newman (used to do sand scratching at Walton and Clacton), ?, ?  
After the Waterloo Inn closed its doors in 1982, this pub took over as being the one used by Colchester's Irish

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 1<sup>st</sup> Jul 1994

community, developing a reputation for good music events but also a place frequented by rogues. It went through an unfortunate period around 1992 when its licensee was involved in some personal difficulties, much written about over a period of months in the local press<sup>1</sup>, and the pub was temporarily closed.

Under new management by a mother and daughter team<sup>2</sup>, the pub once more became a popular haunt with its own particular brand of customer, although business did not take off and by March 1995, it was closed down and offered for sale as a private dwelling. However, that was short lived and the pub soon re-opened as 'The Beerhouse'.

The pub seems to have once had a famous visitor when, for a short time, it was allegedly 'home' to Mr Paul Simon, of Simon and Garfunkel fame, some time before his meteoric rise to stardom in the music world. However, on the basis that you should never believe anything that is told to you in a pub, especially this one (which, for a time, was the authors preferred 'local'), this story lacks corroboration. We tried to check the story, but without success. Perhaps, some day, Mr Simon will come to our aid. A secondary touch with fame is that (without doubt this time) a picture of the pub is shown on the 'Clutching at Straws' album cover of the rock band Marillion, produced by EMI in 1987. The jacket offers thanks to the inhabitants of the pub 'one April afternoon' and the bar areas, as they were at that time, are clearly shown.

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<b>Bell - 1</b>	St Nicholas	High Street
1416 to 1748	a tavern	location uncertain

The name of the pub is another popular one of the type where the sign would be a simple picture of a bell, requiring no words to indicate the building to be a place of refreshment. The pub was probably located within hearing of the bells of St Nicholas' church, which may have been the reason for its name.

The earliest reference to this ancient house is in manorial records dated 1416 where it is described as a tenement, shop, tavern, fish stall and ground called 'La Bell,' left by Katherine widow of William Cotell. (She also owned the Swan). In 1463, there was a reference to an offensive dung heap, opposite to the inn called 'le Belle.' In 1509 was recorded a tenement or hospice called 'the Bell' in Colchester Market in St Nicholas Parish. In Morant's book of 1748 he described it as a tenement, the property of Crouched Friars. The Victoria County History states that, 'The Bell, The Crown, and the New Inn or the White (later the Red) Lion, stood side by side on the south side of High Street in 1522. The Bell and the Crown were private houses by 1597'<sup>3</sup>. However, all of these references fail to give us an idea of precisely where this tavern stood, or if there is any part of its structure still standing.

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<b>Bell - 2</b>	St Botolph	74 Priory Street (previously Moor Lane or More Elms Lane)
18th century to 1913 (map 60)	a public house	demolished

This pub appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 and was therefore probably of a much older age.

The local newspapers reported this house as a disorderly one in 1858<sup>4</sup> when the Superintendent of Police drew to the attention of the Chairman of the Bench that, 'a most respectable person complained to him that the other day that since the landlord was before the Bench two rooms had been made into one and was now crowded with soldiers and prostitutes. the proceedings there were so disreputable that the informant said he must leave'. The superintendent said that this was quite correct and that he had paid his own visit, only to find 12 boys and girls drinking there of the age of twelve or thirteen years.

From 1872 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886.

The 1881 census shows that it was under the landlady Mary Ann Legge. We are indebted to one of her great great grandsons, Mr George Gardner, who told us that she was holding the pub on behalf of her son-in-law, Charles Webber, who was in the army in Colchester but was to take over the house on his discharge. This he did in late 1881, as evidenced by 1882 trade directories. Sadly, he died at the Bell in 1886, aged only 44. A sad story indeed, as the family were then left destitute and had to move out, Mary dying in Winchester's workhouse in 1892, aged 84.

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<sup>1</sup> EG – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1991, 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1992, 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1992, 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1992. ECS – 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1992

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 15<sup>th</sup> Apr 1994

<sup>3</sup> VCH Essex Vol IX P109

<sup>4</sup> Essex Standard – 7<sup>th</sup> May 1858



The various census and directory entries give the following information:

1822 to 1824	? Aylett	Pigot's
1828 to 1833	Obadiah Read	Pigot's
1839	Francis Ward	Pigot's
1845 to 1852	John Barfield	White's and Post Office
1851	George Fowell, innkeeper, age 33, born Wetherden together with his wife, two children, a servant and a lodger	Census
1855	George Fowell	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Henry Hallock[?], age 33, publican	Census
1862	William Chippington	Kelly's
1867	John Lord	Post Office
1870 to 1874	Cornelius Delight	Kelly's
1871	Cornelius Delight, age 45, unmarried, Publican, late cabinet maker, born Colchester	Census
1878	Frederick Thomas Walker	Kelly's
1881	Mary Ann Legge, Licensed Victualler, widow, age 72, born Stratton, Hampshire, together with children and grandchildren	Census
1882 to 1886	Charles Webber	Kelly's
1891	James Conway, Licensed Victualler, age 29, born East Bergholt together with his wife, two children, a servant and a boarder	Census
1891 to 1895	James Conway	Kelly's
1898 to 1912	Joseph Samuel Sargent	Kelly's
1901	Joseph Samuel Sargent, Publican, age 48, born Long Melford together with his wife. three daughters, a grandchild and a visitor	Census

Mr Chris Manning recalled (c 2000), 'My Great-Grandfather, James Conway took over the pub c1890, and lived there with his wife, Louisa; and children Florence and Edward, until his death at age 32, in 1895. Louisa suicided in 1896 because of this. James' elder sister Harriet married Joseph Taylor and they were landlords of the Red Lion at St Osyth. She was an outgoing and spirited girl, and apparently her nickname was 'Happy'. Jim was also the omnibus driver for Colchester's Red Lion Hotel and was held in enormous respect by all the bus and cab-drivers in the town.'

Memories of this pub came about in 1992 when Mrs Ellen Warner, daughter of an ex-landlord (probably Sargent or Sargent), died at the age of 101 years<sup>1</sup>.

The Bell was closed in 1913 with mention of it having a conviction for harbouring prostitutes. This would have been during the time of licensee, Joseph Samuel Sargent. The building was later demolished. A Quaker burial ground was next door. The whole area is now (2012) part of the Priory Street car park.

### Bell - 3

St Giles

Old Heath, Old Hythe

18th century to 2008

a public house<sup>2</sup>

demolished 2011



This pub appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 and was therefore probably of a much greater age. From 1872 it was owned by Grimston who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. It later passed to Ind Coope.



The building was badly damaged as a result of the famous earthquake in 1884, with photographs dating from this period often seen in books covering Colchester's

<sup>1</sup> EG – 20<sup>th</sup> Jul 1992

<sup>2</sup> Visited by Bacchus - see Chapter 7 for the detail.



history. The building was demolished after a complete rebuild in 1938 and then stood in a more set back off the road position to that of the original. (A similar thing happened to the Flying Fox at a similar time!)

One of the pictures shown is dated 1884 and shows work being carried out to repair damage caused by the earthquake in that year. It also shows three different advertising boards, those of Daniells, Nicholls and Barclay Perkins, reflecting the fact that it was then a freehouse owned by Grimston. The pub sign gives the name 'Aldous,' which fits perfectly with the census record as detailed. The now famous earthquake was centred around the area of Peldon, where the Rose public house was severely damaged. There were also many other buildings damaged in and around Colchester as a result of the earthquake.



The Bell in 1884



The two Bell pubs in the 1930s

The various census and directory entries give the following information:

1848	Thomas Barker	White's
1851	James Southgate, innkeeper, age 50, born Colchester together with his wife and a lodger	Census

1855	James Southgate (and a farmer)	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Mark Scott, Inn Keeper, age 57, born Copford together with his wife and daughter	Census
1862 to 1867	Mark Scott	Kelly's and Post Office
1870 to 1871	Mrs. Eliza Scott	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Eliza Scott, widow, age 55, inn keeper	Census
1874 to 1878	James Samuel Coveney	Kelly's
1881	William G. Aldous, Publican & Dealer, age 53, born Framlingham, together with his wife and son	Census
1882	William Aldous	Kelly's
1886	Alfred Woodward	Kelly's
1891	James Poulter, age 51, licensed victualler	Census
1894 to 1899	Robert Henry Godfrey	Kelly's
1901	Edward Reeks, Licensed Victualler, age 60, born Hungerford, together with his wife	Census
1902	Edward Reeks	Kelly's
1908 to 1914	William George Motts	Kelly's
1917	Mrs. Mary Jane Everett	Kelly's
1925	Walter John Wham	Kelly's
1933	Mrs. Bolland	Kelly's
1937	Mrs Frances Louise Bolland	Kelly's

A memory of this pub came from Mrs Doris Hall, née Jennings, in 2006. She told of her aunt and uncle, Frank and Frances Bolland, who had the pub from the 1920s through until their retirement around 1960. Also, memories from Mr John Willoghby who was a baker's rounds boy in 1940 with a horse and van selling bread in Old Heath. It was their custom to stop for dinner at the Bell Inn. The roundsman George, went in for his pint and brought the young John a lemonade. The horse had a nosebag of oats<sup>1</sup>.

Bacchus visited in 1963<sup>2</sup>, when Wally and Joan Brown held the licence. The pub is no more, having suffered the fate of many others across the country in the 'noughties', of declining trade and indifferent management. It closed in January 2008 and mysteriously burned down in March 2009<sup>3</sup>, demolished and destined to become housing.

### Berechurch Arms

Lexden

Shrub End Road  
CO3 4RG

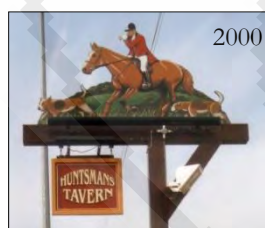
2012 to date

a public house

The name of the pub was derived from the local area of Colchester known as Berechurch.

Previously the **Huntsman's Tavern**

c1985 to 2012



Around 1985 the pub was rebranded and renamed as the Huntsman Tavern. Out went the purple PVC

seats and dated decorations and in came the new restaurant and bar layout, so common a thing to happen in those days with so many of our pubs. The locals eventually got used to it.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2006

<sup>2</sup> CE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1963

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 2009

The name of this pub is a recent one, which is shared by other pubs owned by the same company. The intention was to give an impression of days of yore and traditional values. In 2012, the pub was suffering mixed fortunes and it was closed, destined to become converted for housing. However, a last minute reprieve came about when local entrepreneurs Steve and Jackie Wakefield bought the property and opened it again on Friday 5th July 2013, reverting back to the original, rightful and appropriate name of the Berechurch Arms.

previously the **Berechurch Arms**

c1830 to c1985

The pub appears in trade directories from 1832 and is shown on the 1837 tithe map. It was owned by Daniells until 1876 when it was sold to Nichols - and then mysteriously passed back to Daniells in 1884, although taken over by Truman by 1913.

A newspaper article of 1900<sup>1</sup> recorded a charge against the publican for using unstamped mugs giving defective measures. That would have been in the days of pewter mugs, as opposed to the modern day glass ones, almost universally used nowadays.



The Berechurch Arms c1964

Of the various licensees, our record starts with a female licensee in 1832, with Patience Biggs. The census of 1851 showed occupation by one Temperance Biggs, age 80, a widow and an inn keeper. Did her parents have any idea of the profession their daughter would take up when they named her Temperance? It must have been a source of great mirth to her customers. Her daughter (or niece) Elizabeth seems to have taken on the pub by 1855. Sixteen years later, in 1871, as if to keep up a female tradition, the landlady was 20 year old Susannah Eagle. A young person indeed to have charge of a pub and probably the youngest ever in Colchester - unless you know different! By 1901, Emma Wade, aged 43, was the publican. She was living with her husband, William Wade, a labourer and his stepchildren with the surname Hollock. Emma must, presumably, therefore, have been Robert Hollock's widow. An interesting female trail of landlords that lasted for around 80 years!

The various trade directories and census entries give the following information:

1832 to 1839	Patience Biggs	Pigot's
1848	Temperance Biggs	White's
1851	Temperance Biggs, innkeeper (widow), age 80, born Ardleigh, together with her widowed sister Elizabeth Norfolk, age 77, her unmarried daughter, Elizabeth Norfolk, aged 48 and a niece	Census
1855	Mrs. E Norfolk	Post Office
1861	Elizabeth Norfolk, age 58, unmarried, licensed victualler together with one Robert Scott, age 60, widower, a boarder	Census
1862 to 1874	Mrs. Elizabeth Lappage Norfolk	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Susannah Eagle, age 20, unmarried, a victualler	Census

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1900

1878	John Gibbs	Kelly's
1882 to 1886	Arthur Theobald	Kelly's
1891	Robert Hollock, age 40, publican	Census
1894 to 1895	Robert Holleck	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Mrs Emma Wade (but written Mrs William Wade)	Kelly's
1901	William Wade, Farm Labourer, age 36, born Lexden, together with his wife Emma Wade, age 43, born Boxford, publican, three step children, a son and an Italian cook boarder	Census
1908	Mrs Emma Jane Wade	Kelly's
1912	Thomas Northover	Kelly's
1917	Thomas J Brown	Kelly's
1925	Louis N. Clark	Kelly's
1933	P. H. Stannard	Kelly's
1930 to 1950	Percy Harold Stannard	Publican's Licences
1956	George Henry Cross	Publican's Licences
1962	James Arthur Fardell	Publican's Licences

The pub was extensively refurbished and extended and renamed the Huntsman around 1985.

also known in earlier times as the **Roundhouse**.

This nickname was given with reference to the original shape of the building, before the many alterations which have since taken place, masked this feature. The rounded shape can still be seen upon closer inspection and is believed to relate to a time when the building was a toll house, the occupant being responsible for collecting taxes from road users. A similar toll house still exists on Lexden Road, located on the north side between the Crown and the old Sun.

### Bird in Hand

28 East Stockwell Street

19th century (map 109?)

a beerhouse

location uncertain

The name of the pub possibly came from the sport of falconry or perhaps simply from the tradition of wildfowling, where birds are killed for sport or for meat. There is an old saying of 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.'

see the **Royal Oak**

### Bishop Blaize Inn

West Stockwell Street  
or Bear Lane

The name of the pub came from Bishop Blaize, the patron saint of woolcombers. His symbol was iron combs, with which his body was reputed to have been torn to pieces. This would have been an apt name in the Colchester's Dutch Quarter, where weaving was the industry of the general area.

see the **Victory**

### Black Boy - 1

Black Boy Lane

1783 to c1823

a tavern

precise location unknown

The name of this pub would be, to coin a 1990s phrase, politically incorrect. It originates from a time when black boys were a rarity, unlike today. From the 17th century onwards, when slavery was big business, negro boys as servants were in great demand by wealthy people. This pub's name probably came from one such unfortunate young lad, taken away from his parents by unscrupulous slave traders. So sensitive is this pub's name now in some politically correct circles, that two others of the same name in nearby villages had their signs changed to, in one case a black labrador dog, and the other a sooty faced, but presumably white when washed, chimney sweep. May history judge these idiots!

We understand that this house was originally located in Black Boy Lane, later named Vineyard Street. The road probably took its name from the pub. It first appears by name in the alehouse recognisances of 1783 a period in time when slave trading was at its peak. It is mentioned in a trade directory of 1791 but not in 1823. We know that there



was a later house of this name from a newspaper report in 1863<sup>1</sup> that refers to it. This is therefore not to be confused with the later house of the same name. See the *British Lion* for further details.

(Britain marked the bi-centenary of the abolition of slavery in 2007 and we may be sure that Colchester too paid its shameful part in that abhorrent business. However, a former Colchester Quaker, Benjamin Lay, was instrumental in the fight against slavery and Colchester can rightfully claim that it started the end of it.)

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### **Black Boy Inn - 2**

Stanwell Street, Vineyard Street

see the **British Lion**

see also the **Rose and Crown**

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### **Black Boy - 2**

Greenstead Road

19th century

a beerhouse

location uncertain

This beerhouse is mentioned in a sale document in reference to the Six Bells which was sold in 1899. It was either on the same site at one time or close by.

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### **Blue Anchor**

St Botolph

Magdalen Street

see the **Boar's Head**

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### **Blue Boar - 1**

38 Head Street

c1600? to 1743

an inn

demolished

The name of the pub would probably have come from the emblem of the House of York. It was also the badge of the de Vere's, Earls of Oxford. Many White Boars were painted blue when Richard III was defeated by Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth, since that was the colour of the badge of the Earl of Oxford who supported Henry Tudor. Whether this pub was as old is unlikely - but possible.

The following is based on an article written by Gerald Rickword in 1957<sup>2</sup> about the demolition of the building built around 1743 which occupied the site of tenements known as the 'Blew Piggs.' This was a facetious reading of the name, which should have been the Blue Boar.

A much earlier example of the sign, although not necessarily on the same site, is met with in the Sessions Roll of April 3rd 1600 and records a particularly sad story of the cruelty of poor law administration in the days of the first Queen Elizabeth. It concerned one of Witham who had been brought to the 'Blew Pigg' and agreed on payment of £5 in ready money and four bonds of £10 each to be redeemed later, to marry a widow, one Agnes Burrow, who was with child by William Scarfe, a yeoman of Great Bentley. Leaving Colchester after the hastily arranged marriage, the couple trudged their way to Witham where, on orders from the overseers some four or five days later, they returned to Colchester. A mile from town, the unfeeling groom left his bride, hoping that she would return to her home at Bentley. The unfortunate woman obtained a passport from the Bailiffs in Colchester for her passage back to Witham. Getting no further than Stanway, she was lodged in the constable's house for the night and was immediately delivered of a child. Her husband was sent for but, despite his entreaties that she be allowed to remain until she gained her strength, the callous constable 'caused her to be put in a tumbrell and to be conveyed thence to Marks Tey where she miserably died.' Freebone was ordered to hand the residue of the money back.

This house was demolished around 1743 with the later building housing, for a time, the offices of the Essex County Telegraph, in turn demolished in 1957.

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and Suffolk Gazette - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1863

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1957

## Blue Boar - 2

West Stockwell Street

c1750 to 1878 (map 47)

a public house

destroyed by fire

This pub first appears in licensing records of 1764 but would probably have dated from shortly after 1743, when the previous house of the same name in Head Street was closed.

The various census and directory entries give the following information:

1822 to 1924	James Dowson	Pigot's
1828 to 1833	Joseph Green	Pigot's
1839	Peter Ingram	Pigot's
1842	George Hearne	Court Record
1845	Mrs. Mary Hardy	Post Office
1848 to 1851	Joseph Smith	White's and Post Office
1851	Susan Pitt, widow, Innkeeper, age 55, born Bury, Suffolk together with her two daughters and four others	Census
1855	Mrs. Susan Pitt	Kelly's and Post Office
1862 to 1867	Abraham Golding	Kelly's and Post Office
1870 to 1871	George Grice	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	George Grice, age 38, Innkeeper, born Mersea together with his wife and three lodgers	Census

In November 1842 Mr George Hearne of this house was summoned for having various mugs that were insufficiently stamped, as the slightest pressure on them, such as being maltreated, could affect their capacity. All mugs had to be in good condition and correctly stamped. Mr Hearne complained that he had inherited these mugs from the previous landlord and assured that it was not his intention to commit a fraud. He was fined one shilling and the mayor hoped that the press, by reporting this case, would provide a warning to other landlords. This case relates to Weights and Measures; from a time before the use of glass mugs, as we are so familiar with today. Please see the section of this book devoted to Weights and Measures and a brief history of drinking vessels.

In 1856 the newspapers<sup>1</sup> reported a dispute between the Regulars and the Militia. 'Up until the arrival on March 19th 1856 of 600 strong of the 88th, or Connaught Rangers, from Winchester, the previous imbalance in numbers in favour of the Militia had reduced the outward manifestation of the old feeling of jealousy between the two branches. In the evening of that day a dispute commenced at the Blue Boar and as the parties proceeded towards the camp, their numbers respectively increased. At the Woolpack, St Botolph's Street, there was a serious disturbance and also at the beerhouse [probably the Royal Standard] near the camp gate in Mersea Road - but the latter was soon quelled by the arrival of a strong picket.'

From 1872 until 1878 it was owned by Grimston. The licence was removed to Kendall Road as the building was destroyed by fire in 1878.

On the site where the pub once stood was built the first public library, a mock Jacobean style building which still stands today, although not as a library but incorporated as part of the Town Hall. It ceased being a library when an even newer library was built in Shewell Road, later to be swallowed-up and incorporated into the Culver Precinct.

also known as **Blue Boar Hotel**

## Blue Boar - 3

Holy Trinity

Kendall Road

see the **New Town Tavern**

## Blue Boar - 4

Old Heath

19th century

a tavern?

demolished

Various references are known of in the borough records to a Blue Boar, which was located on the site which later became White Hall and now occupied by the housing area around Littlebury Gardens in Old Heath. It is not known for sure whether it was a tavern, although the very name would suggest it was.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 1956

### Blue Diamond

Lexden

Heath Road

This pub was so nicknamed because of the blue diamond shapes built into the brickwork of the building.

see the **Dog and Pheasant**

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### Blue Posts Inn

St Botolph

St Botolph's Street

1808 to c1856

a hotel

demolished

The name of the pub came from the blue coloured posts which railed off each end of what was then known as the Cut, or Osborne's Cut (after the proprietor of the adjacent brewery), a chaseway with an open ditch connecting St Botolph's and Stanwell Streets. It ran alongside the Blue Posts Commercial Inn, which took its name from the said blue posts. That chaseway became what is now known as Osborne Street.

It was a house of some standing<sup>1</sup>, its success being to the credit of the owner Mr John Lingwood. It was the meeting place of the Friendly Society No. 373, whose rules were first registered in 1813. It was also the meeting place of the Harmonic Society, the members of which, in August 1816, played a cricket match on the Ordnance Field, between the Majors and the Minors for '55 guineas and gloves', an old custom. Victory went to the Minors by two runs and the day closed, as might be expected, with perfect harmony. In 1822, some 60 members of the Loyal Association of Colchester, partook of an excellent dinner provided by host Lingwood, in honour of the King's birthday (any old excuse will do!), when 'the utmost conviviality prevailed until a late hour.'

Trade directories showed the following incumbents:

1822 to 1833 John Lingwood  
1839 George Strait

Pigot's  
Pigot's

The premises were offered for sale at the Three Cups on 27th June 1834 on the death of Mr John Lingwood. 'Together with the spirit shop, tap house, wine and spirit stores, small brewery, large yard and excellent stabling, with a garden behind the same, the whole late in the occupation of the proprietor, and in which a considerable wine and spirit trade has for many years been carried on.'

In May 1835, 'a numerous and respectable party of about 60 favoured Mr Thomas Court with their company to dinner,' on his removing to the house from the White Hart at Witham. Two years later George Strait from the the ancient Angel Inn in High Street took over the house, which was 'replete with every convenience for Commercial and other Gentlemen, having well aired beds, excellent Dining and Sitting Rooms, and Good Stabling.'

It appears to have closed in 1856, although the precise date is uncertain, or of when it was later demolished.

The building once stood at the south corner of where Osborne Street joined St Botolph's Street. That area of town was re-arranged somewhat by German bombing raids and by later 'improvements' to road layouts.

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### Boadicea

St Mary at the Walls

Headgate

The name given to this pub was in commemoration of a very important aspect of Colchester's history. In the year AD60 (or was it 61?) in reprisal for atrocities committed against her people and family by the Roman army, Boadicea (lately re-named as Boudicca by those who worry about such things), raised a force against them and virtually destroyed Roman Camulodunum (Colchester), before moving on to Londinium (London) and Verulamium (St Albans), to do likewise - and thence ultimately to her death at the hands of the Romans, who had, by then caught up with her. Her husband, Prasutagus, was leader (or king) of the Iceni tribe, based in what is now Norfolk. When he died, Boadicea was faced with a demand for monies to be returned; monies which had previously been believed to have been a gift by the invading Romans. Modern day archaeologists can easily identify that precise period of the attack, by the layer of ash which regularly occurs during excavation works within the town's walls and beyond.

see the **Fox and Fiddler**

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1946, 24<sup>th</sup> Apr 1964

### Boar

?

?

c1791

an inn

location uncertain

The name of the pub is another ancient one, where the sign told all as to the purpose of the building. The boar was frequently used as a heraldic crest and there may have been some relevance to the naming from this source.

The only reference found to this house is in a trade directory of 1791. Was it a shortened name of another house, perhaps the Blue Boar?

### Boar's Head

St Botolph

Magdalen Street

1894 to 1910 (map 24)

a public house

demolished

This pub was renamed as the Boar's Head in 1894 and was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. It was closed in 1910 due to a conviction for allowing the house to be 'the habitual resort of reputed prostitutes.'

A directory gives the following:

1898 to 1908 Charles Frost

Kelly's

The building was demolished and replaced by the ugly Corporation's bus sheds as exist today.

also known (by some) by the spoonerism, the **Whore's Bed**; whether with justification or not is unknown! Judge for yourself by referring to the Lifeboat Inn.

previously known as the **Anchor** - map 24

18th century to 1895

The Anchor first appears in the alehouse recognisances of 1764, although it would have dated from before that date. It was mentioned in 1770 when 'a press gang came through Magdalen Street and took a man from the sign of the Anchor as he was drinking a dram to make his escape from them.' It was owned by Osborne in 1872 who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company around 1886. In 1894, its name was changed to the Boar's Head.

In 1849, William Wire recorded in his diary that a barrel drain was laid from this pub down to Hawkins' Yard at the Hythe. The census of 1881 gave the licensee as William Collings, age 37.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1822 to 1829	Charles Inman	Pigot's
1832 to 1823	William Cant	Pigot's
1839	Mark Munson	Pigot's
1845 to 1855	Joseph Wenden	White's and Post Office
1851	Joseph Wenden, licensed victualler, age 58, born Earls Colne together with his wife and two servants	Census
1862	John Kennedy	Kelly's
1867 to 1871	Charles Webb	Kelly's and Post Office
1874	Mrs. Eliza Norris	Kelly's
1878 to 1886	William Collings	Kelly's
1881	William Collings, Licensed Victualler, age 37, born Aylesbury together with his wife	Census
1894 to 1895	Charles Frost	Kelly's

also known as the **Blue Anchor**

An unknown compiler of Colchester pub names noted that this house was referred to as the Blue Anchor in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This work appears to have been uncompleted<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Colchester Museums Resources Office - 1950s?



## Bottle House

Shrub End

The name of the pub was taken from an ancient name given to the house. It may have been called the Bottle House because it had some connection with the manufacture of bottles, but then that is pure conjecture.

see the **Leather Bottle**

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## Brahms and Liszt

Queens Street

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter.

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## Brewer's Arms - 1

Holy Trinity

Osborne Street  
CO2 7DA

1805 to date (map 9)

a public house



The name of the pub is a simple reference to the practise of brewing and where, at one time, beer was brewed on the premises.

The building is believed to have been built in 1738 and was then known as Nutshell Hall. Details of it as a pub date back to 1805 when it is first mentioned in the Alehouse Recognisances.

It was claimed that, in his will of 1828, the then landlord, a Mr John Hardy<sup>1</sup>, left an intriguing bequest of the pub to his housekeeper, as long as she stayed unmarried and with a strict stipulation that his wife was not to take possession of the pub.

However, the truth of this story has now been researched by the author and found to be a falsehood; a bit of creative journalism. John Hardy was a surety for his son-in-law, Bowler Webb, who was the innkeeper. John Hardy's will was dated 1820 and made no mention of this house. On the other hand, Bowler Webb's will was dated 1828<sup>2</sup> and did mention this house, which he left to his daughter, without any such restriction or mention of a housekeeper. So, here we have another myth being exposed as untrue. (Another from the same source concerns the burning of witches at the Bull!)



A watercolour painting by Major Bale and assumed to be a copy of an earlier picture. The Brewer's Arms is on the right of the picture.

In those early days Vineyard Street was named Black Boy Lane, after a pub of that name, and was very different to the car park site that we see today. From 1872 the pub was owned by Branson, although building plans dated 1901 give the owner as Holden. It appears to have been sold to Daniells in 1907 and stayed in their possession until 1959 when it passed to Trumans.

In 1843, William Wire recorded that a group of independent worshippers had purchased a house in Black Boy Lane, opposite to the Brewer's Arms. In that year, the records show that John Cooper and his wife owned the pub.

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1973

<sup>2</sup> ERO – D/ABW 127/103



The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1822 to 1829	Bowler Webb	Pigot's
1832	John Cooper	Pigot's
1839	William Cooper	Pigot's
1848 to 1852	John Cooper	White's and Post Office
1851	Henry Hamblion, innkeeper, age 37, born Woodbridge together with his wife and six children and two servants	Census
1855	T. Canier	Kelly's
1861	Adolphus Powell, Publican, age 30, born Bury St Edmunds together wife his wife and a servant (Pot Boy)	Census
1862	Adolphus Powell	Kelly's
1867	Mrs. Maria Clark	Post Office
1870 to 1886	Thomas Branson	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Thomas Branson, age 39	Census
1881	Thomas Branson, Innkeeper & Proprietor, age 49, born Colchester, together with his wife and daughter and an ostler	Census
1891	William James, Publican, age 39, born Ardeigh together with his wife and three sons and an ostler	Census
1894 to 1899	William James	Kelly's
1901	Alfred Bridge, Publican, age 42, born Tolleshunt Major together with his wife, a barmaid and a visitor	Census
1902 to 1908	Alfred Bridge	Kelly's
1912	Thomas Preedy	Kelly's
1914 to 1917	John Sutton	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	G. H. Minter	Kelly's

The map dated 1876 shows that the pub had a urinal out on the pavement, presumably of a similar design to those that can still be seen in France and known as 'pisssoirs.' The Royal Standard had a similar set up too! Was it half height, as in France, or full height to protect one's modesty? We can only now guess, but it is an interesting aspect of social life in the town. This map and the later 1909 map also show that there was a large amount of stabling in the back yard.

The illustration shows the Brewer's Arms, as it once was, complete with Sedan chair. Note the entrance door on the corner of the building. It also shows what was to become Greenland's Vodka Bar.

This interesting two storeyed timber framed house is protected as a listed building.

Ex-Metropolitan policeman, Mr West, held the licence for 22 years, up until 1958. His son Jack had the Live and Let Live in Stanway. Bacchus visited in 1964 when the landlords, under Trumans, were the recently installed Mr Ted and Mrs Connie Robinson. At that time, Ted was the longest serving publican in the town , having held a license for 36

years. The Morning Advertiser ran an article in 1990<sup>1</sup> when Stuart Corrigan took on the pub under the Innpreneur lease scheme. The article gave an interesting insight into the running of a pub in Colchester. Stuart was quoted as saying, 'All our customers know one thing – follow the house rules. We only give one warning. I'm pleased to say we have a great crowd here – there's never any problems'.

Unfortunately, this pub gained itself a poor reputation in the 2000s with newspapers recording such reported incidents as the landlady being badly attacked by a customer's dog in 2000<sup>2</sup>, an ear being bitten off in a fight in 2002<sup>3</sup>, a stabbing in 2006<sup>4</sup> and a savage beating in 2010<sup>5</sup>. We suppose that every town must have at least one 'rough' pub. It must be hoped that it can turn its reputation around for the future.

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### **Brewer's Arms - 2**

St Peter

Middleborough

c1851 to c1856

a beer house

location uncertain

There is some confusion as to whether this house was the Brewer's Arms or the Brewer's Arm. An anonymous commentator in 1856 stated it to be the latter, 'to distinguish it from the house of the former name in Stanwell Street.' The 1851 census showed that it was kept by John Sheldrake, age 50.

Its precise location is unknown.

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### **Brewery Tap**

Maidenburgh Street

c1890 to 1959 (map 108)

a beer house

demolished

The name of the pub comes from the practice of using a back room of a premises for tapping beer and which later became used as a bar by certain persons. This instance would refer to just such a room provided by the brewery in this street.

The census of 1891 records it as the Castle Brewery Tap where one William Carver, age 55, was described as the publican. It was classified as a beerhouse, being owned by Daniells until 1959 when it was closed. The building stood at the corner of George Street and Maidenburgh Street and was demolished to make way for 'improvements' (questionable) to the Dutch Quarter in the 1980s - but which led to an important archaeological find of a supposed Roman theatre, now marked for posterity and for tourists and other interested persons.

also known as the **Castle Tap**

also known as the **Brewery Tavern**

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### **Brewery Tavern**

Maidenburgh Street

The name of the pub is another which simply takes its name from the brewing industry. In this case, the brewery was next door, hence the appropriate naming of the pub.

see the **Brewery Tap**

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### **Bricklayer's Arms - 1**

St James

East Hill

The name of this pub is a popular one throughout the country. It simply honours the profession of bricklaying, a very important trade in the expanding Colchester of the 19th century where brick built buildings were taking over from the older timber framed buildings.

see the **Whalebone**

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<sup>1</sup> MA – 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 1990

<sup>2</sup> EG – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2000

<sup>3</sup> EG – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002

<sup>4</sup> EG – 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2006

<sup>5</sup> G – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2010



## Bricklayer's Arms - 2

Mile End

27 Bergholt Road

CO4 5AA

c1878 to date

a public house

852008



This pub first appears in the licensing records in 1884 when it was owned by Daniells. The 1881 census showed the publican to be George Harsum, age 50, and again in 1891 - but of age 60. It is probable that this house was a beerhouse before 1884.

Regrettably, very little of historical interest has been found for this pub, which was presumably because it was so well run over the years that no misdemeanours were recorded.

From 1989 it was owned by Careglade. A newspaper article<sup>1</sup> of 1992 gave the owners as Woodbridge Inns and Taverns, who were granted a possession order against the former general manager. The Suffolk brewers, Adnams, took over the house in the 1990s and its fortunes were much improved with the arrival of the soon to be popular landlords (ex the Dragoon) Mr Fred Veasey and his wife Hazel.



The Bricklayers c1964

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1878	Robert Sheldrake	Kelly's
1881	George Harsum, Publican, age 50, born Framlingham, together with his wife and their five children	Census
1882 to 1886	George Harsum	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Frederick Robert Bean	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Mrs. Emily Agnes Bean	Kelly's
1901	Mrs Emily A Bean, Licensed Victualler, Widow, age 28, born Chatham, together with a barmaid and a general servant	Census
1908 to 1917	George Upson	Kelly's
1925	Arthur Raison	Kelly's
1933	Arthur Thomas Raison	Kelly's

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1992



Fred and Hazel Veasey have proved to be excellent landlords with the pub being a very popular 'real-ale' venue, much used by CAMRA members. In 2011, they also took over the licence of their old pub, the Dragoon, renamed as the Ale House in Butt Road.

**Brights**

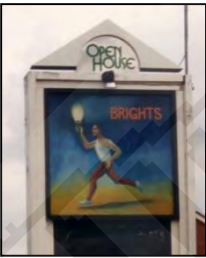
Lexden

Straight Road

1984 to 1996

a public house

demolished



The reason for the naming of this pub came from the refusal by the local council of a brightly illuminated pub sign. As a gesture of retaliation, the owners named it after the sign that might have been. Its sign showed an Olympic torch carrier.

In 1984, plans for a large pink and blue illuminated pub sign were submitted by owners Anglia Hosts of Norwich, but refused by the council<sup>1</sup>. The local residents protested strongly, with a comment from a local councillor saying that 'this was Straight Road, not Las Vegas.' This storm occurred whilst the pub was closed for six weeks undergoing renovation. An idea for a new name for the pub was obvious, what was to have been a bright new Star was simply abbreviated

to - 'Brights'!

The pub was opened with this name in 1984 by its owners Grand Metropolitan, having undergone considerable refurbishment. It fast became a young person's pub, much to the consternation of nearby residents who objected to its noisy customers<sup>2</sup>.



Brights in 1991

Whilst it started out well, the attraction waned and, following a period of poor trade, the owners decided to close the pub and sell the land for more profitable house building.

It was subsequently demolished in 1996; another piece of Colchester's history disappearing into oblivion!

previously known as **Chaplins**

c1984

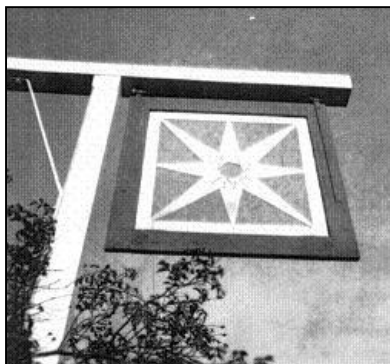
The pub was, for a short period, known as Chaplins, a reference to Charlie Chaplin, the actor.

previously known as the **Star**

c1850 to 1984

<sup>1</sup> EG – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1984

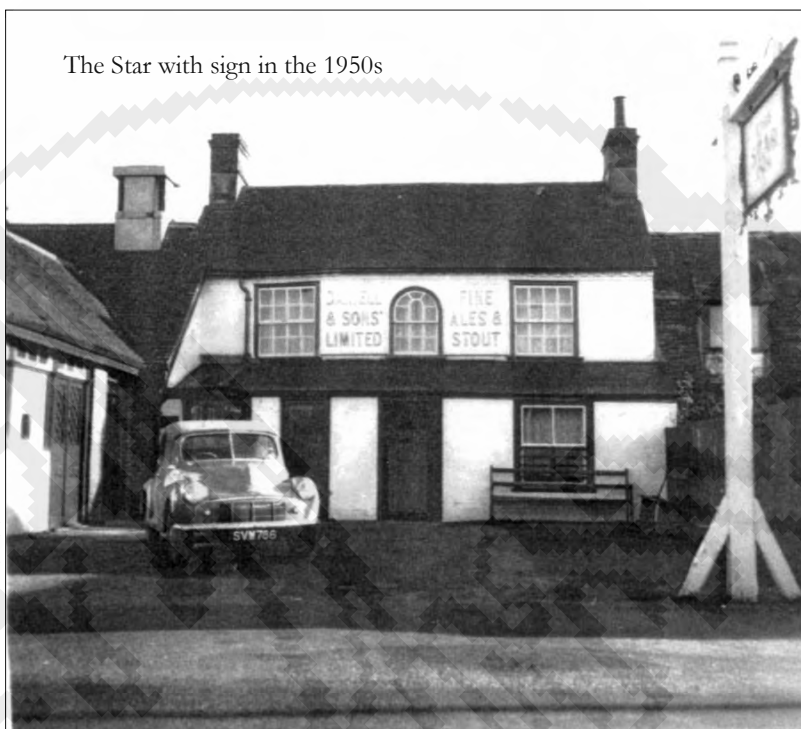
<sup>2</sup> EG – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1984



This house was originally a beerhouse where beer was brewed on the premises, with the 1861 census showing the occupant to be Mrs Sophia Durrant, age 60, a widow and described as a brewer. She was still there in 1871 at the age of 70 years. By 1881, 55 year old William Pepper was the beer house keeper, followed in 1891 by Henry Lusted (one wonders if he did!), age 49 and described as a gardener and beer retailer.

Of course, in those days, there were few residential buildings around, as there are today, and the main customers would have been local farm workers.

A memory has been passed down by Annie Lusted who arrived at the pub as a babe in arms, when her parents took over the running of the pub. It became her home for about 60 years, as she later took over the pub with her husband Bill Moore. When Bill died, Annie ran the pub for a few more years, retiring and moving to a house a couple of doors along Straight Road.



The Star with sign in the 1950s

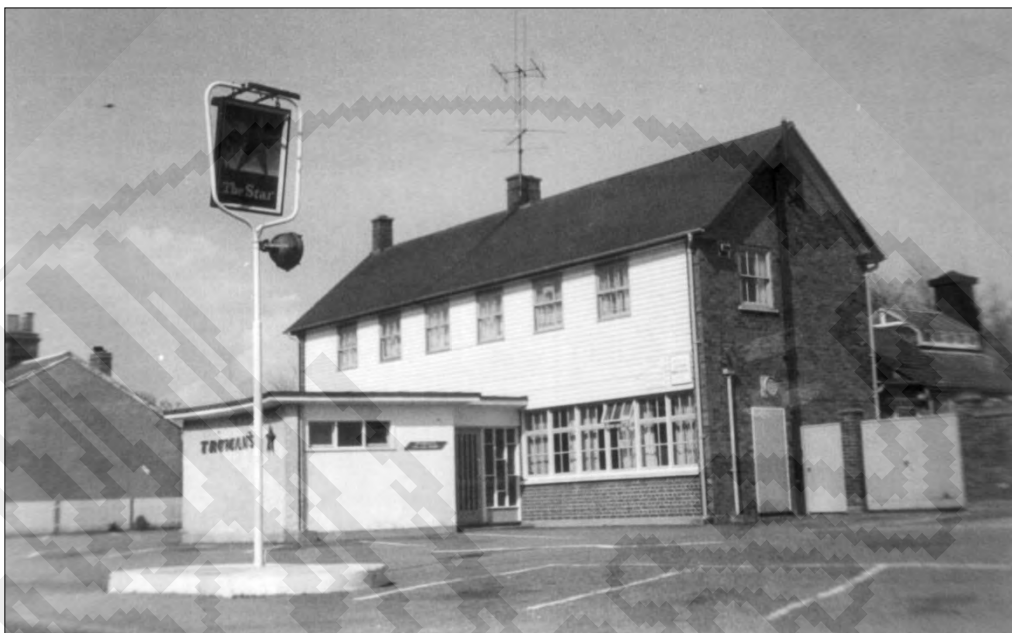
She lived there until she was 86<sup>1</sup>. We understand that the bearded gentleman on the left of the following picture was Mr Lusted. The picture therefore probably dates from around 1910.



<sup>1</sup> ECS - 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1995

Brewing on the premises probably ceased when the house was taken over by a brewing company. From 1907 and possibly before that, it was owned by Daniells, being granted a full licence in 1934. It later passed to Trumans. We show the two different buildings in pictures. Above from the 1950s and below from 1964.

The two houses are clearly different, so Trumans must have rebuilt at some point around this time.



The Star in 1964

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### Britannia

St Botolph

Berechurch Road  
CO2 7QY

1865 to date (map 95)

a public house

The name of the pub is typical of Victorian jingoism that existed at the time when the pub was built. The pub is located close to the army barracks, and its name would have appealed to both soldier and traveller alike. Britannia herself was depicted on coins of the realm as does the pub's sign today. It has also been suggested in the past, by an anonymous bar stool philosopher, that a plan view of the shape of the pub, is similar to the outline of Britain and Britannia herself, thus possibly giving a reason for the original naming of the pub. (Judge for yourself in the map section!)



The pub was built around 1864 on land which once belonged to Plum Hall farm and which was sold for the building of new housing in Meyrick and Pownall Crescents. The licensing magistrates in 1865<sup>1</sup> received the application for a new licence and this was approved. Samuel Howe was the occupier. It was situated on the Conservative Land Society's estate whose rules prevented any other public house being erected there.

Its owners, Steward and Patterson of Norwich, clearly intended it to be an inn of some standing with stabling and fine rooms for guests. However, it never seemed to have fulfilled its intended purpose and settled down to steady business as a public house with facilities for meetings and dancing. It was taken over by Greene King in 1894 who have owned it ever since.

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1865





The Britannia c1935

The various census and trade directory entries show the following:

1870 to 1871	William Good	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Edward Rose, 31, Innkeeper, born London and his wife, child, a servant and a lodger	Census
1874	Mrs. Rose Ann Goodwin	Kelly's
1878	Charles Stocker	Kelly's
1881	Alfred Winter, caretaker of Public House, age 39	Census
1882	Cheetham	Kelly's
1886 to 1895	Joseph Ford	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	George Hammond	Kelly's
1901	Edward Chapman, licensed victualler, age 29	Census
1902 to 1908	Edward Alfred Chapman	Kelly's
1912 to 1917	Robert Merchant	Kelly's
1925	George Jones	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Charles White	Kelly's

The attitude of the building faced its front door south westwards along Berechurch Road, towards the military hospital. A map of 1898 shows that it was in direct view of a running track (some recall that this was later the site of a boxing ring). You can just imagine the thirst being worked up by the runners and the tantalising view of the pub as they came around the home straight. It is not surprising that the modern day running track has been moved out of sight of any pub.

Some of the 'regulars' that the author spoke with, could remember landlord Charlie White. Following his death shortly after the second war, his wife took over the running of the pub. Soon afterwards, their son-in-law Fred Cook became landlord and stayed on for over 20 years. Mabel Cook (née White), the landlady, gave some of her recollections of the Britannia.

She moved into the Britannia when her father took over from Mr Jones in October 1929, and Mabel was to live there for 50 years. She remembers that a Mr Chapman had the place before Mr Jones. They never knew any more than that and were led to believe that the pub was then over 100 years old.

Greene King had owned the property for many years when the White family moved in. Mabel says that the place was in a poor condition when her father took over. The way that the bars are laid out today are very different from those days. There used to be several smaller rooms, which included what were known as the 'Smoke Room' (now part of the



lounge bar) and the 'Bagatelle Room'. The club room at the end nearest the car park used to be used by the Colchester Harriers and is now used by various other clubs and groups.

The walled garden had two large entrance gates, one into the stable yard and the other onto Berechurch Road. It contained fruit trees and nicely laid out gardens, although this changed with the war years, in that the garden was later used for producing food for the war effort.

Mabel owned a photograph which would have been taken around 1935. It showed the railings that used to face onto Meyrick Crescent and which gave access to the bar and to the cellars. The photograph is reproduced on the previous page. She recalled that the railings were taken away during the war to be melted down for the war effort. A grille can be seen at low level facing onto Berechurch Road. This gave ventilation for the cellars from the other side. However, a



spate of burglaries through this grille led to it being sealed up.

Mabel also remembered her father Charlie White using the taxi shown in the picture for trips into town. The original front door had steps up to it with swing doors. The door with the window above, is clearly shown and was replaced with a new chimney and fireplaces in 1938. The large five windowed room above, perhaps the best room in the house at one time, became four windowed.

Previous incumbents have named the ghost who haunts the cellar as 'Fred.' He has been known to lock people in the cellar. A dog belonging to previous landlord, John Oakley, would not go down into the cellar, being terrified of something down there.

In 2012, the Brit was known as a top darts venue and was enjoying very good trade from soldiers and their families who had moved to the new Merville Barracks nearby after the wholesale seel-off of the old garrison barracke around 2004. However, big changes were expected from owners Greene King that threatened to transform this pub into a food based enterprise and put an end to the 'friendly local' image that it had built up. Indeed, this did happen and now (in 2015) the pub is both a Gurka style restaurant and public house.

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### British Grenadier

St Botolph

67 Military Road  
CO1 2AP

c1860 to date (map 90)

a public house



This pub is located outside a main gate of one of the town's barracks. The name is therefore particularly apt, catering for the inevitable soldier's custom. It is also just across the road from the Garrison Church, from where many a soldier would have 'whetted his whistle' at the 'Gren' - as it is popularly known to its regulars.

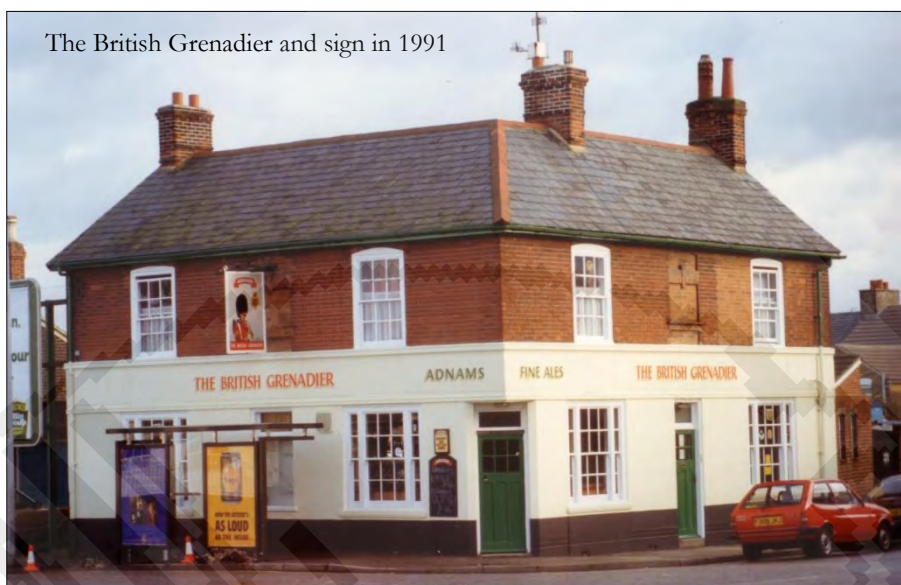
A look around inside reveals that the pub originally had three small bars, with the previous main entrance door having been bricked up to allow two of the bars to be knocked in to one. One of these doors would have been for 'off-sales'.

The building can be dated from window style as being built after 1850, with the earliest trade directory entry being for 1862. It was probably built specifically to serve the military, standing as it does adjacent to the barrack entrance on the one side and at the end of a row of elegant houses that were provided for officers and their families.

Local newspapers give an interesting account of licensing at that period. On Licensing Day in 1859, Mr Goody (Henry Goody, a renowned solicitor in Colchester at that time), on behalf of Mr Nevill, applied for a spirit licence for the house (already a licensed beer-shop). Mr Philbrick (Horace Philbrick, another prominent Colchester solicitor of the time) opposed the application on his own behalf (although he was already in court on behalf of the Carpenter's Arms).

Nevill stated that he had been repeatedly asked for spirits and he considered the house was in an eligible position for the purposes of a licence. Mr Goody contended that he was now acting in accordance with the expressed wishes of the magistrates - to keep the military to that end of the town where the house was situated. All the other brewers had

houses round the Camp, save his clients (Messrs. Cobbold) who were the oldest brewers in the town and he thought the magistrates should endeavour to consider how they might most fairly distribute the patronage which was placed in their hands for the benefit of all interests in the town. He went on to say that Mr Nevill was a respectable man, and came before the bench with a memorial signed by the clergyman, churchwardens and overseers of the parish.



The British Grenadier and sign in 1991

Mr Philbrick, as an individual living in the neighbourhood of this house, observed that he could not see the necessity for this house having a spirit licence granted to it. He thought that there were far too many public houses on Military Road already and that, in fact, they had become so numerous that they were now a positive nuisance. He considered that Mr Goody had made use of a curious argument; that the magistrates should dispense their patronage among the brewers of the town, but that he was sure that bench would not exceed its functions simply to benefit an individual. At that time there would have been; the Red, White and Blue, the Lord Raglan, the Cambridge Arms, the British Grenadier and the Royal Mortar, all vying for the trade that passed out of the nearby barrack gate. We assume that the application was refused as the application was made again, a year later, as follows.

On Licensing Day in 1860<sup>1</sup>, Mr Goody applied to the magistrates for 'a general license for the British Grenadier Beer-Shop', on behalf of Messrs Cobbold, brewers, 'basing his application upon the assertion that the increased accommodation was necessary for the convenience of those persons who attended divine service in the Camp church'. In the question put to the applicant (presumably John Nevill) it transpired that he had been charged with harbouring a deserter when under orders for India, Head-Constable Downes, having made enquiries, the applicant was clearly exonerated from all blame in the matter. Mr Philbrick, as an inhabitant of the parish, once again opposed the application, and cross examined the witness to show there was no necessity for this licence being issued, the house itself not containing the requisite accommodation, but which its owner would be prepared to carry out if this licence were issued. He claimed that there was now almost one continuous row of public houses from the Alms Houses to this spot, and if the Bench could only witness the scenes he had beheld practised there [tell us more please] they would pause before they multiplied any accessories for procuring drink. He remarked that it was somewhat singular, he found upon the memorial presented, with 14 signatures, no name of any officer or person anxious to get this increased accommodation so as to enable him to attend the Camp Church, who would assuredly have been put forward upon an enquiry like this. Another newspaper<sup>2</sup> went on to state that Mr Goody claimed that a commodious public house was much needed in that part, there being no other house near it which could afford anything like the requisite accommodation to the public. A large number of respectable persons, officer's wives and others, were in the habit of attending the Camp Church on Sundays, but that at that time, there was no place at which they could leave horses and vehicles. The licence was granted.

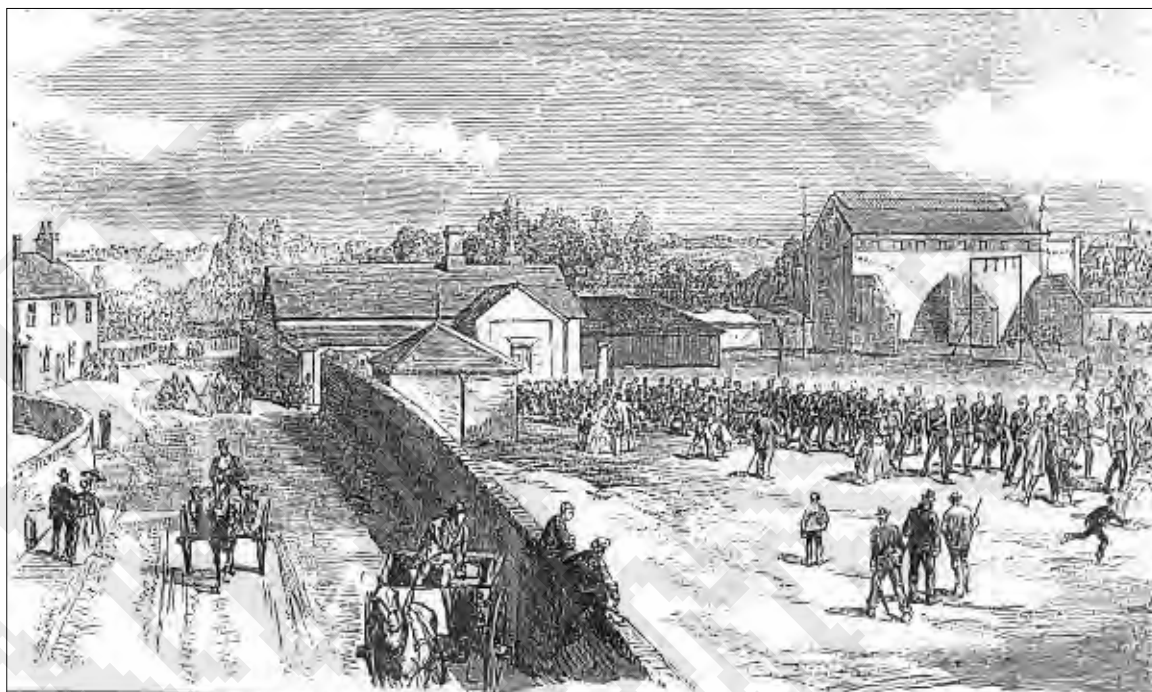
The newspaper also added that the Mayor said he had much pleasure in stating that the manner in which the public houses of the town had been conducted during the year was, with one or two exceptions, well reported of, and he hoped the publicans who that day received their licences would take care to maintain the good character had been given them. He called their attention to the provision of an act which had been recently passed, which gave the landlords of public houses the power to call in constables to assist them in quelling disturbances and ejecting drunk or disorderly persons.

Reading between the lines of the various newspaper reports, we get a picture of the various brewers in the town employing solicitors to oppose applications made by rival brewers. It is quite probable that this licence was granted because of the unrespectable nature of nearby houses; that made respectable churchgoers request a better sort of house. What might they think of the 'Gren' today, one can only wonder?

<sup>1</sup> Essex Telegraph – 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1860

<sup>2</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette – 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1860

The picture is part of a much larger engraving done to show the newly built wooden hutments that served as barracks for soldiers at the time of the Crimean War (not in this part of the picture, which is much larger). These huts remained into the next century when they were replaced with the brick built Hyderabad and Meanee barracks, some of which were in the process of being demolished in 2012. The 'Gren' is shown on the far left of the picture. If you study map reference 90 towards the end of this book you will see the plan layout of the area in 1876. A military prison with 14 cells was a matter of yards away, within easy hearing and smelling of the goings on in the pub. Double punishment for those incarcerated, perhaps?



An engraving dated 1855, showing the British Grenadier, far left.

The pub was originally owned by Cobbolds, the brewers, to be taken over by the Colchester Brewing Company in 1884. A local historian, Mr Malcolm Springett, in search of his ancestor who was landlord at one time, drew our attention (in 2007) to some of this early history of this house. The 1861 census shows John E Nevill, aged 34 as 'Inn Keeper', although the house's name is not given. By the time of 1871 census, he was still there, still an innkeeper, but, this time, the house named as 'The Grenadier'. It appears that, as well as his wife Susan and three children, also living in the property on that day were four soldier's wives; three of these born in Ireland.

John Nevill was also a Parish Constable<sup>1</sup>, he was on the Joint Burial Board when the cemetery opened in 1853<sup>2</sup> and a census enumerator in 1861, 1871. He was clearly a community minded man.

The 1878 Colchester Borough Handbook shows the British Grenadier in the occupation of J Chase. His wife, Susan Chase, was the widow of John Edward Nevill. She married John Chase in Nov 1875. He died in Dec 1877 and she then married John Dore in Feb 1874. John Dore died in April 1902 & Susan died in Nov 1903. The 1881 census gave the publican as Susan Dore, age 41, and ten years later, in 1891, it showed John Dore, aged 48, and described as a general labourer and publican. By 1901, John and Susan Dore are living at the premises although neither are shown as being the publican.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1862 to 1874	John Edward Nevill	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	John Edward Neville, Innkeeper, age 44, born Colchester together with his wife, three children and four soldier's wives, presumably lodgers	Census
1881	Susan Dore, Publican, age 41, born Harwich together with two of her Neville children	Census
1882	Mrs. Susan Dore, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1852

<sup>2</sup> Essex & West Suffolk Gazette - 28<sup>th</sup> July 1854



1894	John Dore, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Dore family but no mention of beer trade	Census
1902	John Dore, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1908 to 1914	Walter Edward Lingard	Kelly's
1917 to 1925	George Henry Lingard	Kelly's
1933	Robert T. Murray	Kelly's
1937	Mrs Elsie Murray	Kelly's

Mr Ray Murray gave us some recollections of this pub in 2010. He lived at the pub as his parents were the publicans. They split up in 1934 and mother continued to run the pub. He recalled that the saloon was on the left, the bar on the right and the smoke room at the back. The Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) had a lodge there and that, during the second war, beer was on ration, the Grendier being designated of Colchester's 'White' pubs. The Licensed Victuallers' Association (LVA) agreed that this pub would be one of those that would only sell to white people and, in particular American soldiers. On one occasion, he recalls, a 'coloured chap' went in and a white American soldier smashed a mug, quickly afterwards paying 5s for the damage. Such was the situation of segregation in the USA in those days that their racial prejudices could be transferred to the UK. Mr Murray also recalled the activities at the nearby Cambridge Arms and Sundays when the troops went to church. 'The Bengal troops came to church on horses.'

More recently, the pub later passed into the ownership of Ind Coope, who sold it to Adnams in 1973.

Licensees, Brian and Julia Mellon held the licence for over twenty years until Brian's untimely death in January 1995. After this sad event, Julia Mellon expressed her wish to continue the good work and applied for the licence, which was granted provided she took a course in pub management - quite an insult to somebody who had run a pub for so many years!

In 1992, the Gren was voted by CAMRA as the best real ale pub in Colchester. This was one of many awards for the pub. Under new management of Linda Eldon and Simon Foulds, who took over in 2004, they went on to win 'Town Pub of the Year' for three years running from 2005 to 2008. However, all was not well. Adnams announced that they intended to sell of nine of their pubs, the Gren being one of them, the Dragoon another. They wanted to concentrate on the more profitable food and wine establishments. A sad sign of the times where profit means more than a way of life as we had come to know it.

<b>British Hotel - 1</b>	St Runwald	West Stockwell Street
c1870 to 1914 (map 48)	a public house	now offices

The name of the pub is another in typical Victorian jingoistic vein. The 19<sup>th</sup> century built brick building is still existing, being part of the borough council's Angel Court offices.

From at least 1872 it was owned by Richards. In 1869<sup>1</sup>, during the licensing sessions, the owner, Doctor Brown Hunter (he was not a doctor by profession. This was his given name, perhaps as a thank you to the family doctor.), applied to have his house granted a full publican's licence on the grounds that his rooms were as good as any in the town, bar those of the Cups Hotel, and that his customers, not being able to get a drink with their meal, would remove themselves elsewhere. His claim was greeted with laughter in the court but it was looked upon sympathetically and his request was granted, to the great delight of Doctor Brown Hunter. He had already paid his 7s 6d fee when the magistrates, as a result of strong protests from other publicans, had to re-think their decision. He was offered a beerhouse licence in its stead, much to his disgust. He complained bitterly, saying that he had paid the fee, which had been accepted, and insisted on the court standing by its original decision. He was eventually calmed and persuaded to accept the lesser licence. In 1879, Hunter was fined for permitting out of hours drinking.

The 1871 and 1881 censuses state that he was aged 50 and 62 years respectively, was born in Forfar, Scotland and was both an inn keeper and a hairdresser. The 1891 census gives an erroneous mention of it named as the British Lion, with the occupancy of one Charles J Pearce, age 46, a job master and hotel keeper. In 1884 it was purchased by Cudden who sold it to Daniells around 1911 who, in turn, had it until it was closed in 1914 and the licence transferred to the new British Hotel, quickly renamed the Drury Hotel.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1867	Doctor Brown Hunter, Beer Retailer & Hair Dresser	Post Office
1870	Doctor Brown Hunter, Beer Retailer & Hair Dresser	Kelly's
1871	Doctor B. Hunter, Publican, age 50, born Forfar	

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869



1874 to 1878	together with his wife, daughter and five others	Census
1881	Doctor Brown Hunter, Hair Dresser	Kelly's
	B. (Doctor) Hunter, Publican, age 58, born Colchester	
	together with a housekeeper and five others	Census
1882	Doctor Brown Hunter, Hair Dresser	Kelly's
1886	Charles Palmer	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Mrs. Ann Bonella	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Charles Robinson Everett	Kelly's
1908	Albert E. Harvey	Kelly's
1912	Arthur Cheshire	Kelly's

also known as the **British Inn**

also known as the **British Commercial Hotel**

also known as the **British Lion?**

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### British Hotel - 2

Layer Road

see the **Drury Hotel**

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### British Lion - 1

Stanwell Street

19th century to 1909 (map 15)

a beerhouse

a food shop  
(destined for demolition, in 2007)

The name of this pub is another example of British pride, the lion being an heraldic device synonymous with strength and power.

Joseph Phillips, in 1906, wrote that, "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." (This a reference to the notorious den of iniquity, the much mentioned in the press, Black Boy in Vineyard Street, that changed its name to the Rose and Crown, which continued its association with the lower orders well into the 1950s.)

If indeed the pub was previously known as the Black Boy, it would presumably have faced on to Black Boy Lane, now known as Vineyard Street. The present building is a combination of two distinct constructions. The present frontage (2010s) is a takeaway food shop (previously, and for many years, Wright's fish and chip shop) which faces on to Stanwell Street. To the rear is a much older section, perhaps of the 17th century, which looks as if it might have had an entrance in Vineyard Street and therefore fitting-in with the previous name claim.

A book published in 1992 on the subject of haunted properties mentioned this one as having its own ghost. Mr Wright, then the proprietor, claimed that the building deeds stated that it was once the British Lion and, before that, the Black Boy.

The census of 1881 showed one Israel Siviter, age 35, a publican. Next door, in British Lion Court, lived Emma Taylor, age 21 and described as a prostitute. There's honesty for you! Most prostitutes of the time - and there were many of them in Colchester - described themselves in census returns as milliners or dressmakers, to disguise their true profession. In 1891, Israel Siviter, age 44, was still publican of this house. However, by the time of the 1901 census is shown Harriet M Siviter, widow, aged 57, the publican, together with her daughter and two lodgers.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1878 to 1894	Israel Siviter, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	Israel Siviter, Publican, age 35, born Stafford	
	together with his wife, three children and various others	Census
1898 to 1902	Mrs. Harriet Maria Siviter, Beer & Wine Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Harriet M Siviter, Publican, age 57, born Woodbridge	
	together with a grand daughter and two lodgers	Census

The British Lion was closed in 1909, when it was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. In 2007 the building was threatened with destruction to make way for the proposed new development of the area. No doubt, an attempt will be made by a few to preserve another of our heritage buildings. Sadly, Colchester Borough Council cannot be relied upon to preserve our old buildings and make them a feature of new developments in the town. History will judge them! (In 2015, the building was still standing and in use as a purveyor of oriental food.)



As an aside, the author is indebted to Mr Patrick Denney for pointing out that the aforementioned Emma Taylor later became quite well known, together with her friend, as the tramps, Marmalade Emma and Teddy Grimes. Many photographs have survived of these two local personalities, who seemed to have led a particularly shabby life.

previously known as the **Black Boy**

c1863 to c1870

At the licensing sessions in 1863<sup>1</sup>, Mr Jones stated, on behalf of Messrs. Bridges and Cuthbert, brewers, of Ipswich, the tenant being James Jones, that it was near the site of a public house which formerly existed under the same name. Its, 'exigencies had been called into question by the new colony which had recently sprung up in the neighbourhood'. On Licensing Day in 1869<sup>2</sup>, the Black Boy was stated as being 'frequented by bad characters', but that, despite this, its beerhouse licence was upgraded to a full licence. The police explained to the court that it was situated in a neighbourhood in which the police will always expect to find indifferent characters. The neighbourhood was inhabited by very doubtful characters who, of course, would visit the Black Boy for refreshment. It required a stricter supervision on the part of the police. The police acknowledged that the consideration of a licence was a difficult matter. All the back premises were occupied by such characters and perhaps it was better that they be there than that they should be scattered all over town. Did it change its name soon after, to change its image?

Black Boy Lane is mentioned in William Wire's diary of 1843 but with no mention of the existence of an inn by that name.

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### British Lion - 2

St Runwald

West Stockwell Street

see the **British Inn**

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### Buck's Horns

St Andrew

Greenstead Road

c1832 to 1995 (map 126)

a public house

demolished

The name of this house is of a hunting theme, probably deer hunting; although why the name was used for this pub is unknown. Various landlords would have put a set on display in the bar.

The earliest reference that we have found to the Bucks Horns is in a trade directory of 1832. Then it is shown with the granting of a licence to John Henry Martin for the sale of wine and spirits at the Buck's Horns beer-shop at the Moot Hall in September 1837. It later appears by name on the 1838 tithe map, then in a trade directory of 1848 and shortly after that in the 1851 census. From 1872 it was owned by Bridges who sold it to Woods in 1884. Around 1913 it was purchased by Tollemache who later sold it to Brent Walker after 1964. In a newspaper article of 1963, Bacchus commented that this house was one of the two Tolly Cobbold houses in Colchester.

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1863

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 10 Sep 1869, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869





The following old photograph came to us via New Zealand. Mr Mike Hutchins contacted us in 2011 and told us a little of what he knew about it. He thought it dated from 1913 and could read the name 'Hilliard' over the door of the pub.



The subject of the picture is no doubt to do with the charabanc outing for the men, but the Buck's Horns pub, as was then, is clearly shown. Mike continues with, '....two of the small girls on the left hand side are relatives; one is Lily Lamb who was 6 years old in the 1911 census records, (in 2012, her daughter Yvonne Harris lived on the Greenstead Estate, Colchester). She was an older sister to Ivy Ena Lamb (my wife Hilary's mother) who was born in Colchester in 1907. We are not 100% certain whether it is Lily immediate left and Ivy second from the left. It could be the other way round. The Lamb family, according to the 1911 census, lived at 87 Greenstead Road, Colchester. The photo belonged to Hilary's mother and when we put it in the photo album, several years before she died in New Zealand, on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1994, it was noted that, in the photo the man with the dog was the publican, a Mr Hilliard, and that it was taken before a "GREENSTEAD ROAD OUTING", seemingly arranged at, or by, regular customers of the Buckshorns Public House.'. What a superb find!

The Essex Standard newspaper cutting is dated from December 1859 and reports an incident that happened at this house one evening; something that was probably very common at that time – known to us nowadays as a 'Lock-in'.

*Thursday, December 20.*  
*Before the Mayor and C. H. Hawkins, Esq.*  
**CAUTION TO PUBLICANS.—John Wright Rose, landlord**  
of the Bucks Horn public-house, Greenstead, was summoned for keeping his house open after 12 o'clock on Saturday night.—Police-  
man Sandall, whilst on duty in that neighbourhood, observed the  
defendant's house open at nearly one o'clock on Sunday morning,  
and told the defendant it was past the hour for closing; he promised  
to clear the house directly, and the officer left, but on returning at  
half past two o'clock found the same company drinking in the house.  
He (Sandall) had repeatedly cautioned defendant, and on one occasion  
he replied, "Well, I don't care; you can't fine me more than £2."—  
Defendant admitted that his house was open after the proper hour,  
but said the company came in whilst he was sitting up for a gentle-  
man.—Supt. Kent spoke to the necessity for the present information,  
inasmuch as himself and other officers were constantly cautioning  
publicans, without effect.—The Mayor thought the police officers  
had used too much leniency, as it appeared their repeated cautions  
were totally unheeded, and publicans appeared to think such irregu-  
larities might continue to an unlimited extent, much to the abuse  
of morality in the town. The Bench were, however, determined to  
suppress this, and although, in consideration of his large family, and  
other circumstances, it was not their intention to inflict a large  
penalty upon the defendant in the present case, they had deter-  
mined in future to enforce the full penalty of £5. The defendant  
was then ordered to pay a fine of 10s. with 11s. costs.—The Magis-  
trates afterwards gave instructions to Supt. Kent to report every  
house, without distinction, that was found offending in this way in  
future; and urged him to keep a diligent watch, with a view to com-  
pel greater regularity in closing public-houses.  
*George Hill, a boy, remanded last week on a charge of*  
*throwing stones at Mrs. Joseph Secrett, in Priory Street, was dis-*

Records show that the pub was completely rebuilt in 1932, 'when the grounds were relaid with an entrance from the new by-pass road'. The pub hit the news in 1992 when the landlord, Mr Danny Bryan, paid tribute to Colchester United having won through to the final at Wembley of the GM Vauxhall Conference title<sup>1</sup>.

For many years there was a bowling green to the rear of the pub, which came under threat in 1993 when its owners, Brent Walker, submitted plans for developing the site for residential housing. It closed in 1994 and was demolished as part of development plans, new houses being built on the site. Thus the Bucks Horns joined so many of the other Colchester pubs that have passed into history; the land on which it was built being worth more than the fun and enjoyment that it provided to the locality. A 'quick buck' was thereby earned by the uncaring, profit driven, owners!

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1832 to 1839	John Henry Martin, Retailer of Beer		Pigot's
1848	Charles King		White's
1851	William Wright Rose		Post Office
1855	T Nayler		Post Office
1867	James Polley		Post Office
1870 to 1874	Robert Bedwell		Kelly's
1878	James Clarke		Kelly's
1882 to 1886	William Dennis		Kelly's
1894 to 1895	George Wolton		Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Charles Bedford		Kelly's
1902	John W. Cheyne		Kelly's
1907	A. E. Dorenden		Benham's
1908	Elijah Dagnall		Kelly's
1912	Robert E. Mullenger		Kelly's
1917	Alfred Hillyard		Kelly's
1925	Francis Henry Garton		Kelly's
1933	Frederick Arthur Lister		Kelly's
1950	Roland James Marshall	Tollemache	Publican's Licences
1956	John Henry Rogers	Tollemache	Publican's Licences
1962	John Gwilyam Williams	Tollemache	Publican's Licences

also known as **Danny's Bar**

c1990 to 1994

The pub was also known by this name, a reference to the licensee Mr Danny Bryan.

<sup>1</sup> EG 8<sup>th</sup> May 1992



### Bugle Horn

St Botolph

Barrack Street

1800 to 2004 (map 34)

a public house

closed in 2004

The name of this pub is associated with Colchester's proud military history. The pub sign pictured is from 2000.



Two signs from the Bugle Horn, on the left from 1991 and on the right from 2000. Below, a picture of the pub as it was in 1991.

taken. By the time of the 'Peace of Amiens' being signed in March 1802, wooden hutments for 5840 men had been erected.

The pressing needs of the soldier meant that he needed a drink when off duty. Local businessmen were not slow in rising to the challenge, resulting in several public houses being opened around that time, each taking military style names. The Bugle Horn was an obvious choice of name as that was the means by which soldiers were organised and commanded in battle and in peacetime.



The pub's first entry in the Alehouse Recognisances for St Botolph's parish, is dated the 10th May 1800 when one William Tungatt was granted his licence, with sureties from James Slyth and James Peachey.

The other pubs which date from the same period were the Evening Gun in Magdalen Street (closed around 1825), the Duke of York (later renamed as the Churchill Arms and now a restaurant) and the Yorkshire Grey in Magdalen Street (closed around 1865). These pubs all centred around the area used for the new barracks, but of which nothing now remains - other than memories of the former pub's names.

Some of the licensees have been:

1800	William Tungatt
1806	William Talboys
1807	Sarah Talboys (widow)

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 Alehousekeepers' of Colchester begging the Corporation 'to give all possible Encouragement to Government building Barracks in the Town.' This plea arose as, previously, 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. The pressing needs of the day led to prompt action being

1811	Wm Tolboy	Holden's
1814	George Ellis	
1819	William Bullock	
1822 tp 1824	George Seager	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	John Seager	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	William Death	Pigot's
1839 to 1845	Henry Hunt	Pigot's and Post Office
1848 to 1867	John Johnson	White's and Post Office
1851	John Johnson, licensed victualler, age 59, born Colchester together with his wife, three sons and nine lodgers	Census
1870 to 1882	William Johnson	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	William Johnson, Inn Keeper, Dealer etc., age 31, born Colchester, together with his wife, three children and twelve lodgers who were mainly working men and their wives	Census
1881	William Johnson, Public House Keeper, Dealer etc., age 41, born Colchester, together with his five children and one lodger only	Census
1886 to 1899	Henry Murrell	Kelly's
1901	Harry Wells, Publican, age 38, born Thorpe le Soken together with his wife, their son and five lodgers	Census
1902	Henry Wells, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1908 to 1937	Percy Sutton	Kelly's
1955	H C Rea	
1961 to 1966	William Arthur Jebbett	
1971 to 1974	A W Groves	



The Bugle Horn was therefore built at the time of the development of the military garrison in Colchester and around the time of the Napoleonic Wars. Until its closure in 2004 it was the oldest military pub in Colchester, being built specifically as a pub, principally to serve the needs of soldiers. It changed little in outward appearance since it was built as a public house and when it gained its first licence in 1800.

In 1872 the pub was owned by the Osborne family, prominent brewers at St Botolph's, who sold it, together with several other Colchester pubs, to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886. It later passed to the Romford brewers Ind Coope who later sold it to the Brent Walker organisation in or around 1991. In 1999 it was owned by the Pubmaster chain. By 2004, it had closed. It had been doing poor trade, in a run down area of Colchester. The property speculators bought it and set about plans to demolish it and to build flats, houses and shops in its place<sup>1</sup>.

The picture shown is of a half pint pewter tankard and is inscribed, 'H M Bugle Horn', which tells us that it dates from the time when Henry Murrell

was the landlord in the 1880s and 90s. It is proof stamped VR and with the Colchester stamp 207. A rare survivor!

A visit to the pub in 1992 revealed an old photograph of the building hung on the wall. With customers and flat caps outside, the sign has 'Colchester Brewing Company' and 'Great Oyster Feast.' There is also a picture of the Quoits team and various others, all assumed to be from around 1930. Regrettably, the whereabouts of this picture is unknown, hopefully not lost forever.

After difficult times with pubs in the area, time was finally called when the pub was demolished in May 2008<sup>2</sup>. This revealed that there had been a building on the site since the 1600s and one of the oldest along the road. The pub frontage as we knew it, with its fine brickwork, must have been added to an existing, much older, building.

<sup>1</sup> EG – 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008



## Bull Hotel

St Mary at the Walls

Crouch Street  
CO3 3ES

15th century to date (map 6)

a hotel, public house



The name of the pub is a very popular one throughout the country. It is often associated (like the Bear) with bull baiting, which may have been conducted in close proximity to the pub. There is a huge bull statue mounted on the building facade, better than any painted sign could do to give the name of this ancient house.

This ancient hostelry first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1770 and it is not known why it is not mentioned before that date, as it known to have been in business well before that date. Perhaps it underwent a period of closure around 1764 when these particular records begin.

From 1872 the Bull was owned by Daniells. Later, around 1959, to be taken over by Trumans and later still by Grand Metropolitan. The Colchester Museum card index states that during the 1930s the landlord, Arthur Green, had the yard extended and made a good amount of money by charging for car parking. In 1992, part of the original yard was opened up as an official car park. History repeating itself!



The Bull in 1991

In the above photograph, note the archway to the right, which was the original entrance for carriages, at a time when this was a coaching inn. The area that was once the passageway has, in more recent times, been incorporated into the general bar area.

The following history is based upon an article<sup>1</sup> by Pete Woods. The reference to the burning of witches has attracted much interest and we have never since been able to corroborate the story – don't believe everything that is written down! Always check it. A similar situation can be seen, by the same source, for the Brewers Arms.

The Bull probably dates back to 1400, as borough records show that tithes in the form of three groats were paid to the Abbot in 1461; tithes were not usually paid until a building was at least 50 years old. In the early reign of Henry Tudor, all the chief citizens of Colchester gathered in the Bull with armed archers and pikemen ready to fight for their King, despite the fact that many Colcestrians were against the King. In the 1660s the tap room at the Bull was used by the Market Sergeant, who sat to receive his dues when foreign traders brought their fine silks from Lombardy to Colchester. The 1700s proved to be very interesting

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 8th Feb 1973

years in the Bull's history and in 1741 Parson Palgrave, 'in holy indignation' sought out the witches of Colchester, and actually found two in the cellar of the Bull. The account goes on that the women were burned and the ashes of their bodies cast out of the town.

In 1791, William Coke, the son of the landlord of the Bull, was accused and convicted of murder. He was transported for life to Botany Bay where he became a respected citizen and in 1832 he returned to a full pardon and probably called back at the Bull to visit old friends.

During the period 1600 to 1850, the Bull was a very busy place, as the stage wagons called there. The speedier coaches arrived at the Red Lion but the more cumbersome stage wagons called at the Bull. (A journey to London from Colchester was a three day trip for the stage wagons.)'

A memory has been given to us by past landlord, Mr Jules Lee, as follows. 'I was landlord of the Bull in Crouch St in the mid 80s. I had the wall taken out and made it into one bar. I also installed Colchester's first video jukebox. We had the BBC Radio 1 roadshow there with Mr Angry, covering the whole carpark with a Markham's marquee.

By the time the council came around on the Monday morning, the tent had gone and I said, "what marquee?" It has to be said that the council are a lot quicker off the mark nowadays and are ever willing and able to put a stop to any activity that has not first been approved by them – and the relevant fee paid!

A board headed 'The Story of the Bull Hotel,' produced by Peter Sumsion, hung on the wall in the pub in the 1990s, but seems to have since disappeared, perhaps to resurface one day.

In the 1990s the pub was known as a soldier's pub, which deterred many people. However, by 2007<sup>1</sup>, following an extensive refurbishment, a new landlord, Mr David (Dave) Richards, launched the pub as a music venue.



A Crouch Street painting by Major Bale, looking east.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1792 to 1794	William Sames	Universal
1811	John Sames	Holden's
1822 to 1829	Thomas Phillips	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	Samuel Phillips	Pigot's
1839	Thomas Phillips	Pigot's
1845	Hannah Phillips	Post Office
1848	Thomas Phillips	White's
1851	Jeremiah Hamblion, innkeeper, age 34, born Woodbridge together with his wife and five servants	Census
1851 to 1855	Jeremiah Hamblion	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	John Abbott, Inn Keeper, age 50, born Tendring Hundred together with his wife, daughter and six visitors or servants	Census
1862 to 1871	John Abbott	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	John Abbott, Inn keeper, age 60, born Clacton together with his wife aged 36, five children, a visitor, a lodger and four servants (cook, pot boy, etc.)	Census
1874	Mrs. Elizabeth Cato Abbott	Kelly's
1878	Frederick Rokes	Kelly's
1881	George Allen, Licensed Victualler, age 25, born Stanway together with his wife and three servants	Census
1882	George Allen	Kelly's

<sup>1</sup> G – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009



1886	Joshua Street		Kelly's
1894 to 1899	Thomas Ivory		Kelly's
1901	Thomas Ivory, Licensed Victualler, age 38, born Hertford together with his wife and four servants		Census
1902	Robert Meadows		Kelly's
1907	H. Kemble		Benham's
1908	Mrs. Harriet Browne		Kelly's
1912	Thomas Ivory		Kelly's
1914	Edward Arthur Hubbard		Kelly's
1917	Frederick James Wells		Kelly's
1919	Arthur Green, Licensee		London, <a href="#">Petty Sessions</a>
1925 to 1933	Arthur Green		Kelly's
1937	Frank Percival Green		Kelly's
1940	Frank Caperoc	Daniell's Breweries	Publican's Licences
1948 to 1958	Archibald Alfred Wilson		Telephone Directory
1962	Keith Halstead Lindsey	Daniell's Breweries	Publican's Licences

In 2015, the Bull was a very popular venue specialising in local bands and musical events.

### Bull

St Peter

?

c1764

an alehouse

location uncertain

The only reference found to this alehouse is in the alehouse recognisances of 1764. It could be a misnaming of the Red Cow on North Hill or a wrong parish entry for the Bull in Crouch Street. Alternatively it could have been an alehouse or tavern in its own right, its precise location being unknown.

### Butcher's Shambles

High Street

c1758

The name of this tavern would have referred to the area off the High Street where meat was sold in medieval times. The Butcher's Shambles was located in the 'Central Row' alongside St Runwald's Church, all of which once stood in the middle of the present High Street adjacent to the Town Hall. The only reference found is in 1758 amongst a list of names of inns of Colchester.

*There are more old drunkards than old doctors.*  
Benjamin Franklin



A selection of Colchester bottles,  
from left to right:

Nichol and Co. earthenware  
Nichol and Co. glass Codd-neck type  
Nichol and Co. pint for beer  
Colchester Brewing Co. pint for beer  
Daniell Breweries pint for beer  
Daniell Breweries half pint for beer

all from 1890s to 1930s



*Beer, happy produce of our Isle,  
Can sinery strength impart,  
And wearied with fatigue and toil,  
can cheer each manly heart.*

William Hogarth's Beer Street

## Caledonian Inn

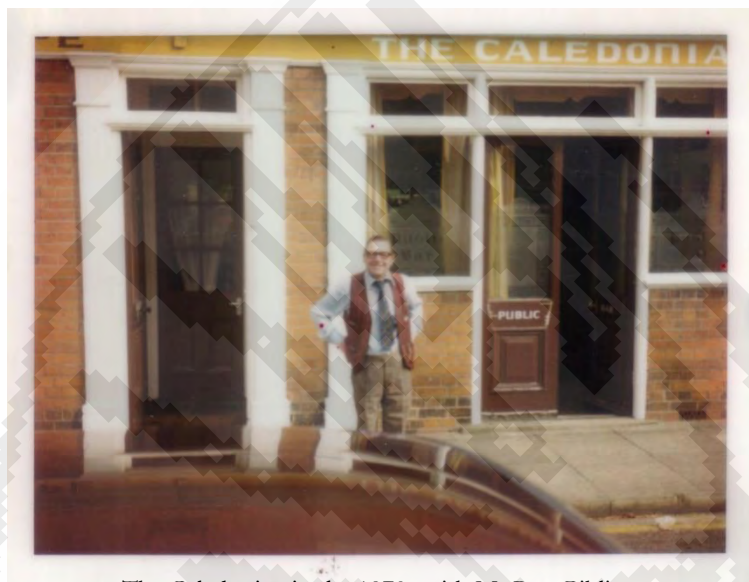
c1867 to 1982 (map 116)

St Giles

a public house

17 St John's Green

now private dwellings



The Caledonian in the 1970s with Mr Ray Gibling,  
the landlord at that time.

The name of the pub probably came about as a result of the many Scotsmen that served in the army and would have been garrisoned in Colchester. Caledonia was the Roman name for Scotland and a Caledonian, a Scotsman. The pub's owner, Arthur Thomas Osborne was of Scots or Caledonian descent which, together with Colchester's Roman history, made two good reasons for the choice of name.

It first appears by name in an 1867 directory. It is shown in the licensing records of 1872, when it was owned by Osborne. In 1886 it passed to the Colchester Brewing Company.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1867	Richard Hughes	Post Office
1870 to 1878	Alfred Baker	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Alfred Baker, Innkeeper, age 50, born London together with his wife and a lodger	Census
1881	Mary Ann Goss, Innkeeper, age 44, born Bradfield together with her neice	Census
1882 to 1886	Mrs. Mary Ann Goss	Kelly's
1894 to 1899	John Welham	Kelly's
1901	Henry Randon, Licensed Victualler, age 39, born Leicestershire together with his wife and four children, one of them, his son a barman aged 15.	Census
1902	Henry Randon	Kelly's
1908	Herbert Hulme	Kelly's
1912	Charles Houghton	Kelly's
1914	Robert Howard	Kelly's
1917 to 1925	Edward Pitchford	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Harry Roberts	Kelly's

The newspapers recorded a fire in 1905<sup>1</sup> which resulted in the complete destruction of the pub and every article of its contents. The Fire Brigade was called out, with hose, cart and ladders. The 'fire burned furiously and from the first the place was doomed....'. Happily, no human life was lost. Two dogs and some canaries did not fare so well. Mrs Martha Cook, the licensee since the death of her husband 14 months earlier, and members of her family, and a lodger, survived the total destruction of the pub. The building was insured!

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1905

In the 1930s it passed into the hands of Ind Coope who eventually closed it, together with the Globe in Military Road and the Welcome Sailor in East Street in 1980, to the great consternation of its regular customers. The only picture that we have of this pub came to us from Mrs Betty Day. For a little more information, please see the Prince of Wales.

The building was converted to sheltered housing in the 1980s. The bricked up cellar access archway and the pub look front entrance door timberwork, gives a clue as to the original use of the building. It would have been built as a pub in Victorian times.

### Cambridge Arms

St Botolph

83 Military Road

c1859 to date (map 91)

a public house



The name of the Cambridge Arms Public House is of military origin. It came from George, Knight of the Garter and 2nd Duke of Cambridge, who commanded an army division during the Crimean War, who was Field Marshall and Commander in Chief from 1856 to 1887, and who was Commander in Chief of the British Army from 1887 to 1895. He was a first cousin of Queen Victoria and he married privately (in contravention to the Royal Marriage Act) Sarah Louisa Fairbrother. The Duke of Cambridge made many official visits to Colchester, and his name was once inscribed on one of the foundation stones of the earlier Town Hall. He died in 1904.

The departure of troops in 1816, following the Napoleonic Wars, produced great hardship to the town's tradesmen. At the time of the Crimean War 1854-6, barracks were re-established in the town with prefabricated wooden huts forming the Infantry Barracks being built for use by Belgian mercenaries. This military build-up from 1855 was a great stimulus to the town's prosperity and resulted in several new pubs being built in the general area of the new barracks. The wooden structures were later to be replaced by the brick buildings that can still be seen today.

By the 1870s there were around 4,000 soldiers, compared to around 23,000 civilians. The army's presence was significant and the landlord of the day would have been assured of good custom from the thirsty soldiers that were stationed so close-by. The Cambridge Arms' nearest rivals for this lucrative trade were; the British Grenadier and the Royal Mortar to the south and the Lord Raglan and the Alma (also nicknamed the Red, White and Blue) to the north.



The Cambridge Arms first appears by name in a trade directory of 1859, when George Allen, probably the pub's first licensee, was shown to be in occupation. In 1872 the pub was owned by local businessman, Mr Walter Edward Grimston who, in 1899, sold it (together with several other Colchester pubs) to the London brewers, Trumans. The 1901 census shows Frederick C Bailey, aged 29, as the landlord.

The Cambridge was taken over by the Brent Walker organisation in 1990 and extensively refurbished in 1992, opening up the bar areas into one large area. In 2005 the pub had an excellent reputation for staging live music events, as well as being an excellent 'local.' However its

fortunes took a downward turn. There was a serious breach of their music licence in 2006 which led to a music ban<sup>1</sup>. The pub was then forced to close briefly in 2008 over a licence infringement, soon remedied by owners Admiral Taverns. It finally closed for good in 2009, bought by a property developer and turned into bedsits<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> EG – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2006

<sup>2</sup> G – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul 2010

Some of the licensees of the Cambridge Arms have been:

1859	G Allen	
1863 to 1867	Mrs Mary Hamblion	Post Office
1870 to 1871	Philip Piton	Kelly's and Post Office
1874 to 1878	Charles Perry	Kelly's
1881	Charles Perry, Licensed Victualler, age 44, born Colchester together with his wife, five children and three lodgers	Census
1882 to 1895	William Oliver	Kelly's
1891	William Oliver, Licensed Victualler, age 50, born London together with his wife and five daughters	Census
1898 to 1899	Thomas Dixon Noble	Kelly's
1901	Frederick C Bailey, Publican, age 29, born Lexden together with his wife, three children and two others	Census
1902	Frederick Charles Bailey	Kelly's
1907	P. S. Kittle	Benham's
1908	John Edwin Sutherns	Kelly's
1912	William J. Smith	Kelly's
1914 to 1933	Mrs. Alice M. Smith	Kelly's
1937	Bertram Collingwood	
1947	A Mitchell	
1948 to 1956	A A Wilson	Telephone Directory
1961 to 1966	F H Dart	
1971 to 1973	H Goding	
2001	Belinda Spencer	EG
2006	Helen Parkes	EG

### Carousel

St Botolph

Magdalen Street

see **Judge and Jury**

### Carpenter's Arms

St Giles

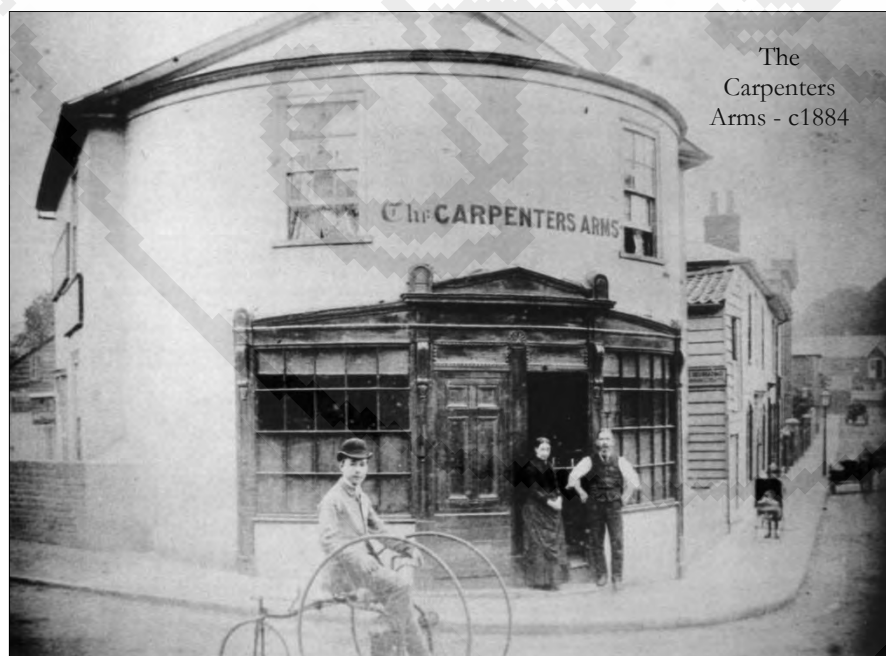
27 Chapel Street

c1856 to 1968 (map 114)

a public house

demolished

The name of the pub, like the Bricklayer's Arms, was probably in recognition of tradesmen in the town, so essential to the rapid development that was taking place at the time of its opening for business.



The  
Carpenters  
Arms - c1884

The photograph shows the strange semi-circular shape of the building, verified by the 1876 map at the map section of this book. It is believed to show the landlord, Arthur George Watts and his wife Frances (née, Beale) Watts standing in the doorway. Their son, Thomas William Watts is the young man on the tricycle.

The pub stood on the corner of Chapel Street and Essex Street and first appears in the museum collection records in 1856. At the licensing sessions in 1863<sup>1</sup>, Mr Philbrick, on behalf of owners Messrs. Osborne, applied to upgrade its

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1863



beerhouse licence to a full licence, stating that it had been in existence as a beerhouse for a number of years and had always been conducted respectably. The trade directories do not mention it until 1878. It is shown in the licensing records of 1872 when it was owned by Osborne. It passed to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886 and then later to Ind Coope, being closed in 1968 due to compulsory purchase in order to demolish it and make way for the Southway development.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1870 to 1882	William Allman	Kelly's
1871	William Allman, Publican, age 57, born Norwich together with his wife and nephew	Census
1881	William Allman, Publican, age 67, born Norwich together with his wife and nephew	Census
1882 to 1895	Arthur George Watts	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Mrs. Frances (née Beale) Watts	Kelly's
1901	Frances Watts, Licensed Victualler, Widow, age 57 born Cambridge, together with her two children and a lodger	Census
1902	Robert William Smith, Shopkeeper, 27 Chapel Street	Kelly's
1908 to 1917	Ralph L. Muncey	Kelly's
1925	John Somerville	Kelly's
1933	Frederick Wortley	Kelly's



Carpenters Arms around 1948  
provided by Howard W Wortley whose grandfather  
Frederick Wortley was the landlord in the 1930s.

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<b>Castle Inn - 1</b>	St Peter	125 North Station Rd
c1700 to 1956 (map 85)	a public house	now a restaurant

The name of this pub would probably have come from the view from its windows of Colchester's famous Norman castle, with its keep being the largest in Europe and on whose design the later built Tower of London was based. It was also known as the North Castle, to distinguish it from the other house of the same name in the High Street.

The timber framed building is said to be of the 16th century. In a deed dated 1691, it seems that the inn was formerly known as the 'Soape House', probably because of the trade of its owners Abraham Fromenteel, a baymaker and Samuel Daniell, a linen draper. The premises passed to nephew Samuel Daniell and was then let on lease to Samuel Hedgethorpe, victualler. He in turn, conveyed it to John Selley, a wealthy brewer, in 1734, who left it to his mother Elizabeth, who in 1765 bequeathed it to her son-in-law, the Reverend John Halls, the broad-minded rector of Easthorpe for 50 years, and his wife.

For many years in the mid 18th century, the inn was a favoured resort of horticulturalists. An advertisement in 1747 announced 'a shew [sic] of carnations and French whole blowers' at the house of Samuel Winnock, at the sign of the Castle, over North Bridge, a kinsman of John Winnock, the founder of the alms houses in Military Road.

In April 1754, the Castle was included amongst the seven inns at which 'The Free Burgesses of Colchester in the Interest of John Olmius Esq. are desired to meet on Monday next, being the Day appointed for the Election, in order to proceed from there to the Hustings.' On the strength of the generous entertainment provided, Mr Olmius of New Hall, Boreham (created Lord Waltham in 1762) was returned to Parliament at the top of the poll.

There was a great consumption of hot purl and other strong drinks during the hard winter of 1788, 9, when in January, a sheep was roasted whole on the ice near North Bridge.

An entry in the St Peter's parish registers in 1831 mentioned the suicide of a male stranger at the Castle Inn. In 1847, it was recorded that the ostler, John Brown, hung himself on his own bed post.

Much excitement prevailed in 1843, soon after the opening of the Eastern Counties Railway, when the horses of the Retaliator coach from Woodbridge, bolted by Mile End Rectory and came to grief upside down outside the inn. Several passengers were injured. Again, in 1843, William Wire recorded that, 'some years since there was a wilderness near the Castle Inn, North, which belonged to the original Lexden Park, where was a maze or labyrinth and from this the Fair held annually at Easter and Whitsuntide takes the name of Wilderness Fair.' The census of 1851 shows occupation by William Minter, age 58.



An old postcard of the Castle Inn c1910

The Castle appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1819, that being the extent of that set of records. A plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of owners, Messrs. Cobbold, in 1843. This can be seen at the Essex Record Office. In 1886 it was taken over by the Colchester Brewing Company, later to be transferred to Ind Coope. In 1956, the pub was closed, with its licence being transferred to the Tramway Tavern nearby. It re-opened as Horlington's Market Café, in 1957 and later became the Copper Kettle Restaurant, this emblem for many years being fixed to the outside wall of the building. Later still, it became the Riverside Restaurant.

The various census and trade directory entries give the following information:

1792 to 1794	Samuel Winnock, victualler and farmer, or Robert Pitt (uncertain which Castle this refers-to)	Universal Pigot's
1822 to 1824	William Clark	Pigot's
1832 to 1839	William Minter	White's
1848	John Minter	Post Office
1851	William Minter	
1851	William Minter, widow, innkeeper, age 58, born Boxted together with his daughter and a servant	Census Kelly's
1855	W. Toppin	
1861	James Ely, Publican, age 40, born Mistley together with his wife and niece	Census

1862	James Ely	Kelly's
1867	William Whitmore Cole	Post Office
1874	Joseph Smith	Kelly's
1878 to 1886	John London	Kelly's
1881	John Lindon, Publican, age 53, born Ipswich together with his wife, two children, two servants and three others	
1894 to 1899	George Seager Cowles	Census
1901	Albert Colman, Licensed Victualler, age 44, born Bristol together with his wife, four sons, a servant and seven lodgers	Kelly's
1902	Albert Colman	Census
1906	Mrs Katherine M Colman	Kelly's
1907	W. H. Hollis	Kelly's
1908	Edward William Hoskins	Benham's
1912 to 1925	Alfred Longmore	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Arthur Catchpole	Kelly's

also known as the **North Castle** or **Castle North**

### Castle Inn - 2

All Saints

92 High Street  
CO1 1TH

c1690 to date (map 59)

a public house

A very attractive looking building, with its Georgian style façade and its name picked out in gold lettering, it was also known as the East Castle, to distinguish it from the other Castle in North Street.



A deed of 1693, granted to Jeremy Spurgeon stated it to be 'a lease or messuage or tenement, adjoining the dwelling house of Israel Ram, called or known by the name or the sign of the Castle Inn ...' In 1762, a notice in the Ipswich Journal stated that Charles White moved from the Castle Inn to the Golden Fleece in Headgate Street. In 1766, the new landlord advertised 'a neat four wheel post-chaise, with able horses and a careful driver, to be lett to any part of England.' In March of the following year it was announced that the noted grey stallion, called Golden Farmer, was standing at stud at the inn, for service at 15 shillings the mare and 1 shilling the man to assist.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1819. In 1791, the current landlord named Barker, was declared bankrupt and the inn was offered for sale at the Waggon and Horses. In the 1850s it was owned by Ann Keymer and in 1881 was taken over by Daniells who had it until the 1950s, where it passed to Trumans and then on to Grand Metropolitan.

The various census and trade directory entries give the following information:

1792 to 1794	Samuel Winnock, victualler and farmer, or Robert Pitt (uncertain which Castle this refers-to)	Universal Pigot's Whites's and Post Office
1822 to 1839	Susan Crickmore	
1845 to 1852	Robert Keymer	
1851	Ann Keymer, widow, innkeeper, age 36, born Colchester together with two sons, three servants and six lodgers	Census Kelly's
1855 to 1862	Mrs. Ann Keymer	Census
1861	Ann Keymer, widow, age 42, inn keeper	Post Office
1867	William Smith	Census
1871	William Munnings, age 46, inn keeper	Census
1874 to 1878	Mrs. Ann Keymer	Kelly's
1881	Arthur George Rayner, Licensed Victualler, age 41, born Great Baddow, together with his wife, four children and two servants	Census Kelly's
1882 to 1902	Arthur G Rayner, age 50, jobmaster	Census
1891	Arthur G Rayner, Publican and jobmaster, age 35, born Ilford together with his wife and a servant	Census
1901	Mrs Margaret Elizabeth Mosley (Mosley)	Benham's
1907 to 1908	Frederick James Tarrant	Kelly's
1912 to 1925	Thomas William Cecil Cocker	Kelly's

A local newspaper of 1912 recorded an account of a police raid in connection with illegal gambling on the premises.

The newspapers reported in 1974 that the pub was the only one in the town to appear in the Good Beer Guide, a result of the excellent Adnam's beer that they then served. In 1986, workmen who were working on the pub, dug up four skeletons, later identified as being around 1200 years old and possibly having come from a Saxon graveyard that would have been located in that area of the town. Old customers who never quite made it home, perhaps?

The pub is now a popular young people's pub where, during warmer weather, its customers congregate in the yard outside to meet up and talk and to watch others cruising past on the town 'race circuit' in their 'music-blaring' cars.

Also known as **East Castle** or **Castle East**

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### Castle Tap

Maidenburgh Street

see the **Brewery Tap**

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### Cavaliers

Vineyard Street

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter.

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### Centurion

Greenstead

1970 to 1992	a public house	closed
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The naming of this pub refers to Colchester's Roman history, where centurions were enforcers of law and order nearly two thousand years ago. A centurion was a Roman military officer who was in charge of a hundred men (later only 80 men).

This was the newest pub to be built in Colchester, its provisional licence being granted in 1968 and opened in 1970 to serve the inhabitants of the Greenstead Estate. After many difficulties with robberies and troublesome customers, the pub was closed by its owners Ind Coope in 1992. The pub's customers were very upset at the closure and much coverage of their attempts to get it re-opened was given in local newspapers. The building is now used as a community centre.

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## Chaise and Horses

North Hill

The name of the pub was taken from a type of horse drawn carriage, which must have been a common sight making their way up and down North Hill. It is curious that this same road also had variations on the theme of the Waggon and Horses at the top and the Coach and Horses at the bottom.

see **Chaise and Pair**

### Chaise and Pair

St Peter

9 North Hill

1786 to 1913 (map 80)

a public house

now a restaurant

The name of the pub would be as the Chaise and Horses but sounding slightly more upmarket, indicating a pair of horses pulling the chaise. This particular combination perhaps intended to set the establishment apart from the other houses, especially the nearby Waggon and Horses, and to add a touch of class that might attract discerning customers.

It first appears in records in 1785 as the Chaise and Horses, to be changed to the Chaise and Pair the following year. A deed dated 1795 mentions Thomas Stoneham, Susannah his wife and Robert Wright, brandy merchant as purchasing 'all that messuage or tenement called the Magpie Alehouse, since the Red Cow and now called the Chaise and Pair.'

During the winter of 1783, one 'Signior Invetto' favoured Colchester with his company and gave exhibitions of 'Grand Fireworks' in the Market Place in High Street. The announcement of these events stated that 'He makes and sells all sorts of fireworks at his lodgings, at the Chaise and Four Horses, North Hill, Colchester.'

In September 1789, a guinea reward was offered by William Walton, of the Chaise and Horses, for the recovery of 'a Grey Crompt Horse, Aged, About 14 hands high, with cut tail and hanging mane; has a sore on the off side near the fore leg,' which had been stolen, or had strayed off the South Common, in the town.

William Wire recorded in 1842 that a Roman tessellated pavement was found in the grounds of this pub. The 1851 census showed that Thomas Watson, age 34, an inn keeper who was also a coach builder employing seven men. The sizeable yard to the side and rear would have been essential to his trade. The 1881 census gives John W Stoffel, age 56, as the publican, followed in 1891 by James Ost, age 55, inn keeper. By 1901, George Hunt, aged 35 was the inn keeper.

In the 1870s it was owned by Daniells but was closed in 1913. It was for some years the Bistro restaurant and then became Monty's Tandoori restaurant. It suffered badly in a fire and was later restored and opened as a restaurant again. It is a very old timber framed building with many of its oak beams, lath and plaster walls and panelling exposed internally. It has an interesting side passage with several old buildings to the sides and rear.

1792 to 1794	John Walton	Universal
1811	Luke Shave	Holdens
1815	Luke Shave	Holden's
1822 to 1829	James Montagu	Pigot's
1832 to 1823	Thomas Hill	Pigot's
1839	Thomas Wilson	Pigot's
1845	Elias Boyden, Bricklayer	Post Office
1848	Thomas Ward Watson	White's
1851	Thomas Ward Watson, Coach Builder	Post Office
1851	Thomas W Watson, innkeeper, coachbuilder (7 men), age 34, born Colchester, together with his wife and two nieces	Census
1852	W. Watson	Kelly's
1855	F. J. Wheatley	Kelly's
1861	Frederick Wheatley, Publican, age 56, born Colchester together with his wife, a servant and two lodgers	Census
1862 to 1867	Frederick James Wheatley	Kelly's and Post Office
1870	George Naylor	Kelly's and Post Office
1874 to 1886	John William Stoffell	Kelly's
1881	John W. Stoffell, Publican, age 56, born Camberwell together with his wife, mother, niece and a lodger	Census
1894 to 1902	George Hunt	Kelly's
1901	George Hunt, Inn Keeper, age 35, born Waldringfield together with his wife	Census

1907	Oldham	Benham's
1908	William Charles Sheldrake	Kelly's
1912	Ernest Charles Kent	Kelly's

previously known as the **Chaise and Horses**

1785 only

It was only known by this name when it was so entitled in the alehouse recognisances in 1785. The following year the name was changed to the Chaise and Pair.

previously known as the **Red Cow**

c1760 to 1785

The borough alehouse recognisances mention the premises by this name from 1764 to 1780. Why it changed its name from the Magpie is unrecorded. It disappeared from the records between 1781 and 1784 so was presumably not in business as a tavern during that time. The trade directories show the following:

1845	Joseph Spinks, Grocer & Beer Retailer	Post Office
1848	Joseph Spinks, Beerhouse Keeper	White's

previously known as Magpies or the **Magpie Alehouse**

18th century?

The house is only known by this name from the reference given in the above mentioned deed dated 1795. It presumably had this name in the early 18th century.

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### Champagne Charlies

High Street

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter.

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### Chaplins

Straight Road

The name of this pub referred to Charlie Chaplin, the great silent movie actor.

see **Brights**

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### Chequers - 1

St Giles

?

18th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The derivation of the name of this pub is uncertain but it is thought possible that, with a sign looking like a draught board, it referred to the innkeeper also acting as a money changer. The chequered board assisted reckoning and would explain why most of the pubs with this name in this country are or were located in sea ports. However, it might simply have indicated that the establishment was a place where a game of chequers could be played.

It appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until 1790, when it probably changed its name to another unidentified house.

In the book 'Essex Brewers,' the author mentions that John Bawtree owned St Botolph Brewery and at one time owned this pub. The brewery was bought from Benjamin Cock between 1764 and 1814 and later sold to J P Osborne.

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### Chequers Inn - 2

Lexden

Bergholt Road

pre 1764 to c1847

a tavern

demolished

The building has been demolished but still stood in the 1930s. It was then two old cottages on the left hand side of Bergholt Road, numbered 138 and 140. The pub was shown in the Lexden Court Rolls of 1756 as the Chequers. The licence ceased before 1862, when it was made into two cottages.

The alehouse recognisances show it being licensed from 1764 to 1819 and then in 1832 it is shown in a trade directory. The 1837 Tithe map shows it on plot 484 under the ownership of John Josselyn, and appears to have stood opposite to where the present day Bricklayer's Arms now stands. The publican's licensing session at the Town Hall in September 1847 records that an application to transfer the licence of 'The Old Chequers' to a new house, to be called the Railway Tavern, erected by Messrs. Cobbold, was approved. The railway had, of course, come to Colchester in 1843 so this was a good business prospect. Thereby ended the life of this public house.

also known as the **Old Chequers**

Whether or not this is the same house is in question as it is said to have comprised a pair of cottages located between No. 82 Bergholt Road and another called Ivy Cottage. In 1849, a Mr Burrows was referred to in a Doctor's account book. The 1891 census mentions it by name but as a private dwelling.

see also the **Colchester Arms**

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### Chequers - 3

?

see the **White Hart**

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### Cherry Tree

Blackheath  
CO2 0AD

c1929 to date

a public house

The name of this pub probably came from the fact that there was a cherry tree within its grounds.



The Cherry Tree in 1991

This pub first appears in trade directories in 1929 when the landlord was Louis Frank Gentry. It does not appear in the borough licensing records until 1935 where it is shown as a beerhouse owned by Daniell. This was because of the extending of the borough's boundaries around that time, whereby it would have been licensed by an outside authority before then. The Donyland licensing records show the house as a beerhouse from 1911 to 1934, James Norfolk of Layer Breton being the owner. It transferred to Colchester in 1934 and gained its full licence at the expense of the closing of the Cock and Pie on North Hill in 1939. This would have been coincidental to extensive new housing being built around that time in the Blackheath area of the rapidly expanding town.

## Chicago Rock Café

Queen Street

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter.

## Churchill Arms

St Mary Magdalen

82, 83 Barrack Street

1980 to 1998 (map 33)

a public house

now a restaurant

The name of the pub came about in recognition of Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill, KG, OM, CH, TD, PC, DL, FRS, Hon. RA (30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965) was a British Conservative politician and statesman known for his leadership of the United Kingdom during the Second World War. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest wartime leaders of the century and served as Prime Minister twice (1940–45 and 1951–55). (Wikipedia)



The Churchill Arms in 1991

The pub was owned by Grand Metropolitan and for the last years of its life as a pub, was in a dilapidated state of repair, closing its doors finally in 1998, destined to become a restaurant.

Previously named the **Duke of York**

1796 to 1980

This house first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1796 and was then a newly built pub, put there by an enterprising businessman to serve the needs of the thirsty soldiers that occupied the barracks which stood opposite. No signs of these barracks now exist, other than the military names of this pub and the nearby Bugle Horn.



The Duke of York - c1932

It was the threat to established powers in Europe from Napoleon's attempt to dominate the continent that led to Britain going to war with France in 1793. The Duke of York began a campaign in Flanders, the war taking its course until the defeat of Napoleon by the Duke of Wellington in 1815 at the battle of Waterloo. A garrison was built in Colchester as part of the county's defence force, which brought many men to the town and much prosperity to innkeepers.

The Duke of York was owned by William Hawkins (a Colchester timber merchant, remembered by the naming of Hawkins Road at the Hythe) when it was sold by auction at the Three Cups in 1799, described with other property in the area as 'newly erected brick dwellings.'



## The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of Colchester

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The house appears regularly in the trade directories of following years and in 1872 was owned by Grimston. It was bought by Trumans in 1899 who had it until recent times.

The photograph shows the name of Fred Gillespie over the door, he being listed in trade directories for 1926 and 1929.

The following information from various directories and census records demonstrate long tenures of families; the Marriott family from around 1828 through to around 1860, followed by the Langleys from around 1870 through to around 1912. Both families suffered the loss of the husband/father of the family, with the widows taking over for several years afterwards, for a further 20 years in the case of Mrs Catherine Langley. Provided the widow was competent, there was no reason why she should not continue the business. But does this suggest that their husbands died prematurely from drink related illness?

The various census and trade directory entries give the following information:

1822 to 1824	B. Wade	Pigot's
1828 to 1839	John Marriott	Pigot's
1845 to 1855	Mrs Rebecca Marriott	White's and Post Office
1851	Rebecca Marriot, widow, innkeeper, age 56, born Colchester together with her five children, a niece and a lodger	Census
1862 to 1867	William Brooker	Kelly's
1870 to 1871	William Troughton Langley	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	William Langley, Inn Keeper, age 40, born Gravesend together with his wife, eight children and two lodgers	Census
1874 to 1895	Mrs. Catherine Langley	Kelly's
1881	Katherine Langley, Licensed Public House Keeper, age 50 born London, together with six of her children	Census
1898 to 1912	George Langley	Kelly's
1912	Mrs. Kate Langley	Kelly's
1914	Arthur Wood	Kelly's
1917	Edwin Rookes	Kelly's
1925	Frederick Gillespie	Kelly's
1933	Walter Gale	Kelly's
1937	Reginald Ewart Coad	Kelly's
1952	T C Heywood	Black Eagle Journal
1961	F C Morgan, of the Duke of York, died October 29th, 1961	Black Eagle Journal

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### Churchill's Café Bar

St Botolph Street

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter.

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### Clarence

Holy Trinity

Trinity Street

see the **Purple Dog**

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### Clarendon Inn

St James

Harwich Road, East Street

See **East Gate Inn**

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### Coach and Horses - 1

31 North Hill

18th century to c1970 (map 82)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub would have been taken from the many horse drawn carriages, which must have been a common sight making their way up and down the road. It is a popular pub name throughout the country, portraying a way of life of bygone days, although it is a strange choice of name in this instance because there was also the Waggon and Horses at the top of North Hill and the Chaise and Pair half way up North Hill. It is not known for sure whether this house, or the Waggon and Horses at the top of the hill, commenced in business first.

The Coach and Horses was built against the north east face of the town's Roman wall at what was then commonly known as Northgate, as the now long gone Roman gateway of that name once stood at that position. It first appears by name in the alehouse recognisances in 1764 but would most likely have dated from before this time. There is a record dated 1745 that has been attributed as belonging to the Waggon and Horses, but which could very possibly relate to this house. See that record elsewhere.

It appears in trade directories from 1823 when Henry Strutt was the proprietor. It was probably not a 'house of call' in earlier years as it does not appear in earlier directories. Benjamin Smith had it in 1832 and in 1840 his widow Sarah was shown. There is some confusion at this point as a trade directory of 1848 gives two Coach and Horses, one in Military Street run by Sarah Smith and the other on North Hill run by Ts Chiles. Whether Sarah left and started another business by the same name is uncertain. A plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, in 1843. This can be seen at the Essex Record Office.

The census of 1851 shows it in the occupation of George Barrett, age 30, a maltster. It is uncertain whether he was the licensee as the name does not fit with trade directory information. He was probably minding the place on the night of the census and would probably have worked at the nearby brewery. However, an anonymous commentator has left a recollection from 1856 which commented on the pub's sign and said, 'This has been the same to my recollection for more than forty years and most probably had its origin from some driver of a stage coach having resided there. Kept by Mr Barrell.'

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1822 to 1829	H. Strutt	Pigot's
1832	Benjamin Smith	Pigot's
1839 to 1845	Mrs Sarah Smith	Pigot's and Post Office
1848 to 1952	Thomas Chiles	White's and Kelly's
1855	George Barrell	Kelly's and Post Office
1862	Thomas Chaplin	Kelly's
1867	Joseph Smith	Post Office
1870 to 1871	George William Churchman	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	George William Churchman, Licensed Victualler, age 55, born Poplar, together with his wife and barmaid daughter and niece	Census
1874	Reuben Lambert	Kelly's
1881	Henry Searle, Publican, age 45, born Ashdon together with his wife and a lodger	Census
1882	Henry Searle	Kelly's
1886	Robert Askew	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Arthur Chapman	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	William Archer Gaul	Kelly's
1901	Harry Hakins, Licensed Victualler, age 43, born Orford together with his wife, their two sons, a barmaid niece and a boarder	Kelly's
1902 to 1917	Harry Hakins	Kelly's
1925	William George Newman	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Mrs. Ida Jacobs	Kelly's

In 1872 the pub was owned by Cobbold, whose brewery was close-by. It was sold to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886 and taken over by Ind Coope in the 1930s who held it until 1961. From 1962 to 1964, it was shown in the licensing records as being owned by Tollemache who had the pub's opening hours extended on market days, it faced the market place that has now been replaced by the Royal London Insurance building.

The pub was demolished in the 1970s and the site is now an open space with that part of the historic Roman wall once again exposed to view. Was that Roman wall ever on view inside the pub?

### Coach and Horses - 2

Military Street

c1848

a tavern

location uncertain

The only reference found to this tavern is in a trade directory of 1848. It is assumed to be an accurate reference and not a typesetting error as another house by the same name is shown on North Hill. Sarah Smith, the proprietor, was probably the widow of Benjamin Smith who once kept the Coach and Horses on North Hill. She was perhaps turned

out of her living on North Hill and set up a rival house in Military Street, presumed to be the present day Military Road. The precise location and whether it changed its name at a later date is unknown.

---

### Cock - 1

?

17th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this tavern is an ancient one, with the sign being easy to recognise by illiterate customers of the time who might have arranged to meet 'at the sign of the Cock.' This sign is said to come from Greek mythology, with the bird symbolising the coming of the new day and the sun's daily rising.

The only reference found to this tavern is a mention in the Museum Collection to part of a rental agreement of Greenstead Manor dated from 1602 to 1623. No more is known of where it stood.

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### Cock - 2

Holy Trinity

The name of this pub does not appear to be of ancient origin in that it is known that the house was owned at one time by one Benjamin Cock. The name therefore most probably came from its owner.

see the **Clarence**

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### Cock and Blackbirds

St Peter

?

pre 1764 to c1790

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of the pub is a variation on the previous example, perhaps taken from the sound commonly heard at the beginning of each day. Nowadays, all you are likely to hear would be the whine of the milkman's float and the clank of milk bottles.

It appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 until around 1790. Whether it later became the Cock and Crown in North Street which appears from 1798, is quite probable but not proved.

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### Cock and Crown - 1

St Peter

North Street

1798 to 1844

an alehouse

demolished

The name of the pub is another variation on the previous example and may have come about from a change of owner to one with patriotic views.

It first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1798 and until they cease in 1819. From 1823 to 1840, it is shown in trade directories. William Wire in his diary of 1843, noted that 'workmen are removing the Cock and Crown Inn, North Street, preparatory to the erection of an inn on a larger scale, during which the landlord, Mr Avis, draws beer in a temporary hut erected behind the premises.' The 1832 trade directory gives the proprietor as Noah Agus. This is followed by another entry in his diary in 1844 stating that the new premises was named as the Globe. This rebuild was probably carried out in anticipation of increased trade from the new railway.

The various trade directory entries give the following information:

1822 to 1829 Mary Payne

Pigot's

1832 to 1833 Noah Agus

Pigot's

1839 to 1840 Jeremiah Bartholomew

Pigot's

An anonymous commentator discussing pub signs in 1856 states 'Cock and Crown so called, but in reality the cock under the crown, as the device clearly proves the device was a crown on a tree and a .....'. He (or she) went on to say that, 'This house was taken down soon after the railway was opened and a new one erected on the site cal.....'. Regrettably, the record in question has not survived in full.

See also the **Globe Hotel**

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Cock and Crown - 2

c1827

a tavern

East Street

location uncertain

The only reference found to this, the second Cock and Crown in the town, was in a trade directory of 1827 when one Abraham Risby was the proprietor. No more is known about it.

Cock and Pie - 1  
(or Pye)

c1700 to 1939 (map 79)

a public house

St Peter

North Hill

now offices

The name of the pub is possibly another variation on previous examples and may have been a corruption of the Catholic oath 'by God and the Pie' or simply originally the Cock and Magpie. A cock and pie was a pre-Reformation manual of ecclesiastical rules, the word 'Cock' being a perversion of 'God', as used in oaths and exclamations. A 'pie' or 'pye' was a collection of rules for the saying of services.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1823 to 1824	Mason & Collins	Pigot's
1901	Rose Crick, Hotel Proprietress, age 35, born Bury St Edmunds together with her sister	Census
1908	Mrs. Frances Russell	Kelly's
1912 to 1917	Mrs. Frances Bird	Kelly's
1925 to 1937	Walter Bird	Kelly's



North Hill c1910. The Cock and Pye is the small premises on the left, where the first three pedestrians are standing.

The earliest reference to it is in the St Peter's parish registers dated 1705 which records the baptism of a child of Humfrey Stevens who was resident in 'the Cock and Pye Yard.' It is first mentioned in the alehouse recognisances in 1764 when Henry Mason was the landlord. He was followed by Robert Wright who kept the house at the time of the parliamentary election in March 1768 when, after a keen contest, Charles Gray and Isaac Martin Rebow were returned at the head of the poll. Mr Wright recorded the votes for Mr Gray. A voucher issued during the election, which named some twenty public houses in addition to the Cock and Pye, reads:

*"This ticket Intitles the Bearer a worthy Free-Burgess, to one shilling's worth of any sort of liquor, at the House of either of the Free-Burgesses following."*



Cricket, which was slowly gaining ground as the national game throughout the 18th century, was popular in Colchester at this period and the Cock and Pye was one of the meeting places of the players, to whom the following public notice was addressed in September 1770.

*'This is to acquaint all Gentlemen Cricketers, that there will be Eleven Hats of Half a Guinea Value each Hat, to be played for by any Eleven Men, on Wednesday the 26th of this instant September; to meet at the Sign of the Cock and Pye on North Hill, Colchester. Dinner to be on the Table by Twelve o'clock. The wickets will be pitched Half after.'*

It appears in the alehouse recognisances each year until they end in 1819. In 1872 it was owned by Taylor who later sold it to Daniells in 1878, who held it until 1939 when it was closed and the licence removed to the Cherry Tree.

The Cock and Pye, is alleged to have previously been known as 'Ye Olde Ben Johnson', with stabling for six horses. A large lawn at the back was used by townsfolk as a bowling green and croquet lawn. It seems that by 1914, it had become somewhat disordered, was closed down and remained untenanted until the Second World War, when it served as the local Air Training Corps club and canteen.

Mr Richard Shackle, a local historian, carried out a detailed study of the building's fabric and reported that it was a late medieval timber framed building with a Georgian front and many modifications from different periods. The building was extensively restored in the 1990s for use as offices.

previously known as the **Old Ben Johnson**

c1902

It is uncertain just when it was known as the Old Ben Johnson. It is shown by this name in a 1902 trade directory and in a set of building plans, so perhaps this was only a short lived name, reverting back to being the Cock and Pye after that date.

1902	Mrs. Louise Yorston	Kelly's
<b>Cock and Pie - 2</b>	St Botolph	Wyre Street
c1750 to 1771	an alehouse	location uncertain

This appears to have been a rival business to that on North Hill. The earliest mention of it is in September 1752, when John Hudson advertised that he was "leaving off that Part of Trade called Pawn-Broking. It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1771. Perhaps it took another name after that date.

<b>Colchester Arms - 1</b>	St Mary Magdalen	79 Magdalen Street
1798 to 1910 (map 28)	a public house	now a shop

The name of the pub is unimaginatively taken from the name of the town in which it is located.

It is first shown in licensing records of 1798 and until 1819 and then regularly appears in trade directories for ensuing years. The various censuses and directories give the following information:

The various census and trade directory entries give the following information:

1811	H Lukin	Holden's
1822 to 1824	Robert Grimwood	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	James Nixon	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	Richard Norden	Pigot's
1839 to 1840	Samuel King	Pigot's
1845	Samuel Blomfield	Post Office
1848 to 1851	George Wilson	White's and Post Office
1851	George Wilson, age 47, publican	Census
1861	Thomas Eustace, age 31, victualler	Census
1862	Thomas Eustace	Kelly's
1867	Charles Frederick Nevill	Post Office
1870 to 1871	Charles Hawkins, Coach Builder	Kelly's
1871	Frederick Ryland, Licensed Victualler, age 70, born Ireland	

	together with his wife and daughter	Census
1874	Henry Osborne Langley	Kelly's
1878 to 1908	Joshua Hubbard	Kelly's
1881	Joshua Hubbard, Publican, age 31, born Fordham together with his wife and their three children	Census
1891	Joshua Hubbard, Publican, age 43, born Fordham together with his wife and daughter	Census
1901	Joshua Hubbard, Publican, age 57, born Fordham together with his wife, their daughter and three lodgers	Census

Joshua Hubbard stands out as a publican of at least 30 years in the same house, although his declaration of age is very erratic. The fact that very little is known about this pub from documentary evidence is probably a testament to Joshua’s skills as a publican. Pubs only tend to get a mention in newspapers when a house is badly run.

In 1872, the pub was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886 and later closed in 1910. The building still stands and was sympathetically restored in the 1980s. It now (2012) stands out as a building of unique character between a petrol station and a plumber's merchants, in a much changed Magdalen Street..

Colchester Arms - 2

Mile End

1963 to 1974	a public house	demolished
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This pub stood where the roundabout at North Station now stands. Its owners Ind Coope gave it the name in 1963, it having previously been known as the Railway Tavern. Bacchus visited in 1963<sup>1</sup> when Bob and Ann Paine held the licence. The newspapers of 1972<sup>2</sup> announced plans for its demolition to make way for the roundabout and the author can well remember the pub's regulars wearing black ties for a time after its sad demise. The pub was a favoured watering hole for workers before they caught their train home of an evening.



<sup>1</sup> CE - 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1963  
<sup>2</sup> CE - 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1972

previously named the **Railway Hotel**

c1930 to 1963



This postcard image above is dated around 1937 and shows the sign of Ind Coope Allsopp. There appear to be coronation decorations around the pub.

The trade directories show it by this name as follows:

1933 to 1937 John R Morris

Kelly's

previously named the **Railway Tavern**

1843 to c1930



The Railway Tavern around 1908 (above). The name of F W Strong is over the door together with the Colchester Brewing Company sign. Note the tramway terminus post outside.



A plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of owners, Messrs. Cobbold, in 1843 (not to be confused with the other Cobbold owned Railway Tavern at Lexden that was also surveyed by Bowler at this time). This may be seen at the Essex Records Office. From 1843 it was named the Railway Tavern, coincidental with the arrival of the railway to Colchester, but it was not the only one by this name. It becoming known as the Colchester



Arms in 1963 although, for a short while, from 1872 to 1883, the records show that it was known as the Railroad Tavern. It received its first Publican's Licence through the transfer from the Old Chequers in 1847. Before that time it had been a simple beerhouse.

A newspaper article in 1943 revealed happy memories of Mr R J Offord, with a photograph of the Railway Tavern taken from the top of the tower of Essex Hall in 1870. He recalled that Mrs Phoebe Rusher kept the pub when, in those days, you could get a pint of beer, half an ounce of tobacco, a box of matches and a clay pipe for 3½d. Sure enough, the 1871 census showed Phoebe Rusher, a widow, age 61, as the inn keeper. With her also were her daughter Phoebe and her grand daughter Phoebe.

The pub was owned by the Colchester Brewing Company from 1884, followed by Ind Coope who took it over in the 1930s, who probably changed its name to the Railway Hotel. The pub changed its name to the Colchester Arms in 1963.

The picture on the left is of a jug and is inscribed 'George French, Railway Tavern, Colchester'. It is a splendid piece of Victorian pottery of the period when George French was the landlord around the 1880s.

The various census and trade directory entries give the following information:

1851	John Partridge, victualler, age 76, born Stoke [by Nayland] together with his wife, son and servant	Census
1861	John Rusher, publican, age 59, born Birch together with his wife, three family members and a servant	Census
1862 to 1867	John Rusher	Post Office
1871 to 1874	Phoebe Rusher	Post Office
1871	Phoebe Rusher, widow, innkeeper, age 61, born Layer together with three family members and a servant	Census
1878	Elizabeth Debnam	Post Office
1881	George French, licensed victualler, age 48, born Bures together with his wife, son and sister in law and a servant	Census
1882 to 1895	George French	Kelly's
1891	George French, publican and cab master, age 58, born Bures together with his wife, son and a servant	Census
1898 to 1906	George Mead	Kelly's
1901	George Mead, licensed victualler, age 53, born Brentwood together with his wife	Census
1908 to 1914	William Francis Strong	Kelly's
1917 to 1929	William Adams	Kelly's

also known as the **Railroad Tavern**

1872 to 1883

From 1872, the licensing records show it by this name and owned by Cobbold, who sold it to Stopes of the Colchester Brewing Company in 1883.

possibly previously known as the **Chequers**

see the **Chequers**  
see also the **Red Cow**



### Colchester Wine Lodge

Crouch Street

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter.

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### Colne

Lexden

North Street

c1870

a beer house

location uncertain

The name of this beer house is a reference to the River Colne which flows through Colchester and from which the town's name is linked, deriving from Colonia Ceastre, the Roman name for the colonia fortress that it once was.

The census and a directory shows this brief appearance:

1870 to 1871 Charles Mortlock, Cabinet Maker

Post Office

1871 Charles Mortlock, Inn keeper, age 35, born Clare  
together with his wife and a visitor

Census

Next door to the north were Colne Cottages and on the other side to the south, was Lexden Villa. Some six households along, began Essex Hall Road. Nothing more is known of it.

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### Colne Lodge

Crouch Street

see the section covering 'Bars' at the end of the chapter..

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### Compasses

St James

?

c1764

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of the pub was probably in connection with Colchester's seafaring tradition, where compasses were essential navigational tools used by the mariner.

This alehouse was only mentioned in the alehouse recognisances in 1764 but would probably have dated from before then. It may well have taken another name after that date.

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### Cooper's Arms Inn

St Giles

Black Boy Lane  
(later Vineyard Street)

1771 to c1780

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of the pub is another example in recognition of a local trade, this time that of the Cooper, a maker of barrels, many of which would have been used for beer.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1771 to 1780. The Museum Collection states that this house was previously known as the Rowers and Beaters. Its precise location and what happened to it after 1780 is, as yet, unknown.

previously the **Rowers and Beaters**

c1755

Gerald Rickword mentions this house in an article that he wrote in 1933, giving the date of it trading as 1755 and situated in Black Boy Lane or Beer Lane or Bere Lane. No more is known of it.

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### Cow Inn

St James

Harwich Road

c1845

a tavern

presumed demolished

The name of this tavern is a simple one with a simple sign to recognise. There were other houses in the town called the Red Cow or the Spotted Cow.

The only reference found is on the Tithe Map dated 1845 which places it in the general position of the present day Flying Fox. Perhaps this is a previous name for that house, which is known to have been completely rebuilt in the 1920s.

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### Cowdray Arms

Cowdray Centre

1984 to c2000

a public house

no longer a public house

The name of the pub is taken from Viscount Cowdray who as the Right Honorable Sir Weetman Pearson was Liberal Member of Parliament for Colchester from 1895 to 1910 and a substantial benefactor to the town. His name was used in the naming of the 1930s built by-pass road which runs alongside the industrial area that has been named in recent years, the Cowdray Centre. The pub therefore took its name from the location.



The Cowdray Arms in 1991

This pub was probably the least known of all the Colchester pubs, being 'tucked away' on the Cowdray Centre complex. It did a good trade at lunchtimes and early evenings, being a popular haunt of the business people on the site. It was taken on by Walter Brown and Ian Beard in 1987<sup>1</sup>. Under a different tenant, it closed in 1995 due to arrears of rent, only to open again 8 months later by Walter Brown and Patricia Beard<sup>2</sup>. However, this was short lived and the pub finally closed its doors as a pub, a few years later.

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### Cricket Pavilion - 1

St Mary Magdalen

Wimpole Lane

c1872 to 1902

a private club

location uncertain

The name of what would have been a private bar, speaks for itself, as it was located at the cricket club. It was owned by the Cricket Club from 1872 to 1876 and was then sold to Daniells who sold it to the Colchester Corporation in 1886. It ceases to appear in the licensing records after 1902. It was not really a pub as such and is therefore only shown for reference.

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<sup>1</sup> EG – 17<sup>th</sup> Nove 1987

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1995

### Cricket Pavilion - 2

Lexden Road

1882 to 1884

a private club

location uncertain

This is another private club, also owned by the Cricket Club, being shown in the licensing records from 1882 to 1884. It was not a pub and is therefore only shown for reference.

---

### Cricket Pavilion - 3

Cambridge Road

1884 to 1893

a private club

location uncertain

This is another private club, also owned by the Colchester and Essex Cricket Club, being shown in the licensing records from 1882 to 1884. It was not a pub and is therefore only shown for reference.

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### Cross

St Giles

?

1770 to c1819

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of the pub is another ancient one, having a religious connection. However, it could simply have referred to the establishment being located at a crossroad or river crossing.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1770 to 1819 only and was also mentioned in a trade directory dated 1793 in the occupation of William Everitt. The name may have been a shortened name for another house but this is not known for sure.

---

### Cross Keys

St Nicholas

Culver Street

pre 1764 to 1970 (map 57)

a public house

demolished

The name of the pub is religious in origin, usually referring to the keys of St Peter and often to the insignia of an abbot. Colchester's last abbot was lured away in 1539 from the safety of the abbey with an invitation from the town burgesses to a feast. However, instead of a feast, he was carried off and hung for his alleged treason. It was to be more than four centuries (in 1994) before Colchester was to have another abbot. He had better watch his step!

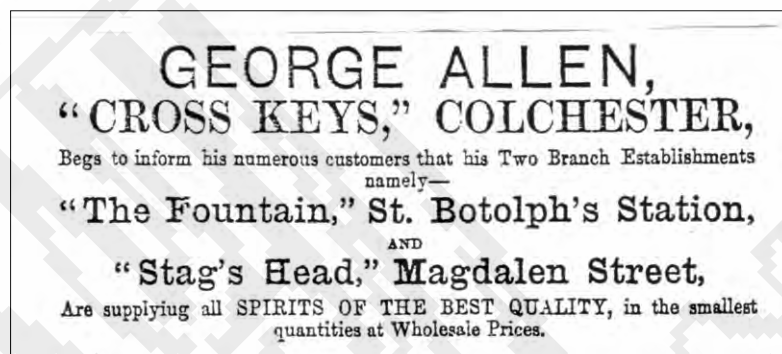


The photograph dates from the late 1960s and is a view looking south down Long Wyre Street.

The Cross Keys was first mentioned in the alehouse recognisances of 1764 but would have dated from before then. It appears in trade directories throughout the 19th century. In 1872 it was owned by Bridges, was in the hands of the Colchester Brewing Company in 1886 who in turn passed it to Ind Coope in the 1930s.

A book covering Essex Brewers refers to the Cross Keys Brewery in Culver Street, which was previously the White Horse and Wine Stores. It states that brewing ceased in 1880 after Bridges, Cuthbert and Co Ltd had commenced brewing in 1866. It passed to the Norfolk and Suffolk Brewery Company and then to the Colchester Brewing Company.

The 'Society of Brotherly Love' met here in 1866, their rules being registered in 1794.



an advertisement from 1878 Kelly's directory

The various census and trade directory entries give the following information:

1822 to 1823	John Hooper	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	William Baggs	Pigot's
1832 to 1832	John Hooper	Pigot's
1839	William Begg	Pigot's
1845	Mrs. Hooper	Post Office
1848 to 1855	William Begg	White's
1851	William Bagg, wine and spirit merchant, age 64, born Dorset together with his wife, their six children and a servant	Census
1867	Thomas Wade	Post Office
1870 to 1882	George Allen	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	George Allen, Licensed Victualler, age 52, born Hackney together with his wife, their eight children, three bar staff, a servant and a nursemaid	Census
1886	George Henry Candler	Kelly's
1891	Rosamond Candler, Publican, age 36, born Holborn together with her son and a servant	Census
1894 to 1895	Alfred John Aldous	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Edward Warren McNay	Kelly's
1901	Edward W McNay, Licensed Victualler, age 45, born Ireland together with his wife and a barmaid	Census
1908 to 1914	William Adams	Kelly's
1917	James E. Chelley	Kelly's
1925	Robert A. Wham	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Mrs. Elizabeth Wham	Kelly's

Memories of this house are given in a book by George Pluckwell who recalled it as, 'being an ancient house of Tudor atmosphere, with its steep tiled and cobbled roof and heavy timbered interior beams. When I worked for the Co-op which was very strong around this section of town, I often had a dinner-time pint there and a snack. It was later pulled down and the town lost another delightful pub.'

It stood on the south east corner of Culver Street East and Long Wyre Street and was closed and demolished in 1970, to make way for the building of Caters supermarket, now another name from the past.



Also here was the **Cross Keys Tap**, a side bar for tipplers, normally associated with a brewery, which, of course, this once was, in a small way.

The various census and trade directory entries give the following information:

1839	John Hooper	Pigot's
1851	Louisa Richardson, widow, victualler, age 52, born Donyland together with her daughter and a servant	Census

previously the **White Horse**

18th century?

All that is known of the pub by this name is from deeds dated 1800, dealing with a bankruptcy and details of liquor sold. It is not known when the pub had this name.

---

<b>Crown - 1</b>	St James	?
pre 1764 to 1790?	an alehouse	location uncertain

The name of the pub is a common one and is no doubt a tribute to the monarch of the day, not mentioned by name and therefore never requiring change.

This alehouse was first mentioned in the alehouse recognisances of 1764 but would have dated from before then. No other reference is found to it and it is possible that this was a short form name for another house.

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<b>Crown - 2</b>	St Peter	'within North Gate'
see the <b>Marquis of Granby</b>		

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<b>Crown - 3</b>		Black Boy Lane or Beer Lane
1658 to 1759	a tavern	location uncertain

All that is known of this tavern is from the Museum Collection which dates it from 1658 until 1759 and comes from the Laver papers. It was located in Black Boy Lane which later changed its name to the present day Vineyard Street. The record tells that it was owned by Anthony Rennalls in 1658 who sold it to John Richards who in turn sold it to John Cock in 1660. It passed to his son Benjamin Cock and thence through the Cock family, ultimately being sold to William Daniell of the Red House. It perhaps then changed its name as it does not appear in the alehouse recognisances from 1764. Could it have become the Crown and Shears or the Rose and Crown?

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<b>Crown - 4</b>	St Botolph	Short Wire Street
see the <b>Little Crown</b>		

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**Crown - 5**

Lexden

Lexden Street

c1860 to 2010

now a restaurant and no longer a pub



This pub was originally a beerhouse, being first mentioned as far as we can tell, in the 1861 census. In 1907 the licensing records show that it was owned by Daniells. It was granted its full licence in 1940 at the expense of the closing of the Dolphin on Hythe Hill, being taken over by Trumans in 1959 and later by Grand Metropolitan.

The pub hit the headlines in July 1995<sup>1</sup> when, Malcolm Freund, the landlord, discovered that the object that he had been using as a door stop for six years, was in fact an unexploded 25 pound bomb. A passing Royal Ordnance depot worker who had stopped off for a meal, recognised the dangerous object and the bomb disposal team were called in. The object was replaced by a similar item, but quite safe.



The Crown at Lexden c1915, very different to the building we see today.

<sup>1</sup> EG – 25<sup>th</sup> Jul 1995

The Freunds moved to take a pub in Danbury, with a resulting decline in the reputation and trade of the house. Up until then, it had been well known for the excellence of its beer, food, gardens and hospitality under the firm hand of the Freunds. It was closed in 2009 following a hygiene inspection. Following this, in 2010<sup>1</sup>, the pub was taken over by a renowned Colchester restaurateur, Mr Patrick Minder, and given a major overhaul, together with a new name of 'The Lexden Crown'. Sadly, from a pub-lovers point of view, its life as a pub was over; replaced by a high quality restaurant or, to use the terminology of the day, a bistro-pub! C'est la vie!

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1861	Samuel Taylor, Inn Keeper, age 31, born Stanway together with his wife and two lodgers	Census
1881	Francis J. Dalby, Beerhouse Keeper & Joiner, age 44, born Ipswich, together with his wife, daughter and niece	Census
1882 to 1899	Francis Dalby, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Francis Dalby, beer retailer, age 55	Census
1902	Miss Frances Dalby, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

<b>Crown – 6</b>	St Leonard	Hythe
1566	an inn	

The Victoria County History records that the Crown at the Hythe was a location for the performing of plays in 1566<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Crown – 7</b>	St Nicholas	High Street
1566	an inn	

The Victoria County History states that, 'The Bell, The Crown, and the New Inn or the White (later the Red) Lion, stood side by side on the south side of High Street in 1522. The Bell and the Crown were private houses by 1597.'<sup>3</sup>.

<b>Crown and Anchor</b>	St Giles	Stanwell Street
c1843 to c1870 (map 118)	a tavern	demolished

The name of the pub is perhaps a combination of a tribute to royalty and to the allegiance to the Crown of the men of the sea.

A plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of owners, Messrs. Cobbold, in 1843. This may be seen at the Essex Records Office. The house is only found by name in trade directories from 1848 to 1863. Its precise location is shown on the 1876 map series, next to the Ragged School, and as identified by Bowler's plans.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1848	Samuel Blyth	White's
1851 to 1852	Henry Durrant	Post Office and Kelly's
1855	Abraham Garling	Post Office and Kelly's
1861	James Woodley, Publican, age 31, born London together with his wife and son and seven lodgers	Census
1862	Jeremiah Woods	Kelly's
1867	William Byham	Post Office

In 1869<sup>4</sup>, a local newspaper recorded the annual licensing sessions whereby this house was refused its licence in connection with its alleged activities as a brothel. The 1870<sup>5</sup> licensing magistrates were asked to approve the granting

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 16<sup>th</sup> Apr 2010

<sup>2</sup> VCH Essex Vol IX P109

<sup>3</sup> VCH Essex Vol IX P109

<sup>4</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1869

<sup>5</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1870

of a beer certificate for a man named Payne. The area around Vineyard Street was a renowned 'Red Light District', being of great concern to the authorities. The building was later demolished and the Essex Registrar's Department, now occupies the general position.

### Crown and Punch Bowl

St James

East Street

The name of the pub is another combination inferring loyalty to the monarchy and perhaps a more lighthearted reference to when the drinking of punch became fashionable. Punch was the Whig drink, whilst the Tories preferred sack and claret. Perhaps this was the reason for the change in name to the Clarendon, the politics of a new owner!

see the **Clarendon**

### Crown and Sceptre - 1

St Giles

43 South Street

pre 1764 to 1911 (map 111)

a public house

now offices

The name of the pub is yet another combination depicting arguably the two highest authorities, that of royalty and church.

This pub was mentioned in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1780 but re-appears in the licensing records from 1872 when it was owned by Bridges. Why it did not appear from 1780 to 1819 is unknown but may have taken another name temporarily. It is shown in census and trade directories as follows:

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1861	James Tyler, Publican, age 24, born Thorpe-le-Soken together with his wife, son and seven lodgers	Census
1862 to 1867	James Tyler	Kelly's and Post Office
1870 to 1871	Joseph Williams	Kelly's
1871	Joseph Williams, Inn keeper, age 42, together with wife and son	Census
1878	Edward James	Kelly's
1881	George Kay, Retailer of Wine & Spirits, age 24, born London together with his wife Clara, a visitor and a servant	Census
1882	John Abraham Maplesden	Kelly's
1886	William Codd	Kelly's
1894 to 1908	Harry Scott	Kelly's
1901	Harry Scott, Licensed Victualler, 45, Colchester together with his wife, five children and nine guests	Census

In the established tradition of one brewery opposing another, Mr Jones (the bombastic Henry Jones, solicitor), on behalf of Mr Norton (presumably the owner), applied for a spirit licence for this house on Licensing Day in 1859<sup>1</sup>. Mr Goody (another renowned solicitor of his time) opposed for Messrs. Cobbold (Colchester brewers). Norton stated that there were seventeen rooms beside the cellar and that he had frequently been asked for liquor and that he considered the house to be well situated for a licensed house. Mr Goody countered, asserting that it was quite a rural retreat. It faced Cook's fields and the assertion made by Mr Goody was that, as the traffic past this house to the Camp was very considerable, it was entitled to a spirit licence. There was no other licensed house in the same thoroughfare, the nearest being the New Inn of Messrs. Cobbold. Mr Goody ridiculed the idea of this house receiving a licence. Mr Jones might have prided himself on its being the highest house in the town - it might have seventeen rooms besides a cellar but he (Mr Goody) considered it was in too secluded a situation to receive a licence. It was all a game! The following year<sup>2</sup>, Mr Jones applied for a licence on behalf of Mr Salmon, kept by J Tyler. This was unopposed and the licence granted.

The house was discussed at the licensing sessions in 1869<sup>3</sup> in connection with prostitution and brothels in the town. Mr Jennings of Ipswich applied for the licence and the tenant was stated as being a pensioner named Williams. The police told the court that it was a place where prostitutes resorted and that two cases from there had been admitted into the hospital. The licence was granted but with a caution to the licensee. By 1870 it had clearly been in trouble

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 9<sup>th</sup> Sep 1859

<sup>2</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1860

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1869



again as its licence was removed. In 1881 it was bought by the Daniells family business, who subsequently closed it in 1911. Building plans dated 1886 suggest that it was also known as the Falcon but no corroborative evidence can be found of this.

It stood in a strange position, probably as a result of later housing going up around it. The 1876 map shows it tucked away between housing in South Street and the alleyway running alongside the stable complex belonging to the Royal Artillery barracks. The Georgian style three storeyed solid brick building still exists and is used as a solicitor's office, although the original entrance door position has been moved at some stage.

Some of the older townsfolk recall a period of use as a brothel, but then that is another story!

### Crown and Sceptre - 2

Lexden

Lexden Street

c1870

a beerhouse?

location uncertain

All that is known of this pub is from a parish register extract which records the burial of the son of this pub's landlord. It may be an error as no other reference has ever been found, or alternatively, it may refer to the Crown at Lexden.

### Crown and Shears

St Giles

?

pre 1764 to c1780

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of the pub is a possible indication of the link between the wool trade and allegiance to the Crown.

This alehouse was mentioned in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1780 and would probably have dated from before then.

### Cups - 1

St Peter

High Street

1701 to 1965 (map 46)

a hotel

demolished 1968

The name of this hotel is a simple and common one, dating from the 16th century, the cup being a vessel that one would take a drink from. The three cups might refer to the Worshipful Company of Salters, producers and sellers of sea salt, but there is no reason known why this should have applied in this instance.



This hotel has been known simultaneously as the Cups and the Three Cups, with neither name being correct or incorrect it seems. The two have therefore been treated as the same in this section as to try to split them would be confusing to the reader.

A lease dated 1725 mentions the Three Cups in connection with the New White Hart. It is shown in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 through to 1819 and is shown in trade directories from 1784

The Cups Inn c1880 showing the three cups mounted at high level with the inscription 'Besford Family Hotel.' Showing the old town hall and perhaps the Cups Gin Shop.

onwards. In 1872 it was owned by Paris and from 1884 to around 1930, by the New Corn Exchange Co Ltd. After

that it was owned by Trust Houses. The New Corn Exchange Co seem to have decided on a thorough series of works that transformed the frontage especially, as can be seen in the two pictures on this page, around 1886.

In 1819, there appeared an advertisement offering the Three Cups for sale, stating it to be the only principal inn in the town, the White Hart (its former rival) having been recently shut up and converted into private dwellings.



The Cups Hotel in the 1960s with the three cup sign above the archway

In 1859, the hotel's bus met every train. Pigot's directory stated that the Royal Mail coach left the Cups every night at 12.15 for London, as well as various other coaches such as the Star, the Telegraph, the Wellington, the Independent Blue and the New Times. In that year it was described as a Commercial and Family Hotel and Posting House.

William Wire writing in his diary in 1843, recorded that the opening of the railway led to a visit by the directors, 'who walked in procession, headed by a band of music and flags flying, bells ringing and other demonstrations of joy to the Three Cups Hotel where they partook of a cold Collation.' He also recorded that an omnibus ran to and from the Three Cups to the newly opened railway station and at a cost of 6d per person. He later recorded many other meetings that were held at the Cups on a variety of matters, including a discussion on the establishing of a public library and museum.

Much has been written about this hotel over the years. Mention has been made of Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton's probable stay at the inn, following Nelson's destruction of the French fleet in Akoubir Bay in 1798. He stayed there the following year when ill health led to his return from the Baltic. This was after the bombardment of Copenhagen when he 'arrived at Ralton's, the Three Cups Inn, at 2am on Tuesday morning, and after taking some refreshment set off for London'.

In 1959 it was reported that the handsome new sign erected on the Cups Hotel was a reminder that its original name was the Three Cups, as symbolised by the three stone cups which had always stood above its main

entrance. The new sign, five feet across and weighing 6 cwt, was handbeaten in copper and gilded and was made by a wrought iron specialist. The sign survived the building and is now firmly attached to the building that later became 'The Cups' in Trinity Street.

There were discussions on whether the Cups or the Three Cups is correct. 'Cups Inn' appeared above the entrance archway in a photograph taken a few years before its partial demolition around 1885, to make way for the later building, but on the top of its facade were three moulded cups. These were repeated in stone on the later building with the addition of three more on the bay of one of the first floor windows - and the name Cups Hotel replaced Cups Inn over the entrance as shown in a contemporary sketch. It was also mentioned that the inscription 'Built AD1572' on the building was incorrect, as that date refers to an inn, the Falcon (later the Queens Head) which stood on the east side of the present archway, was closed prior to 1763, and had no connection with its neighbour.

In 1965 it was announced that the Cups was to close. Gerald Rickword wrote an excellent article in a local newspaper<sup>1</sup>, an extract of which is reproduced here.

Very many Colcestrians and others will learn with real regret that the Cups Hotel is to close. It was in 1701, when King William and Queen Mary sat on the throne, that one Stephen Naggs opened the house under the sign of the 'New White Hart and Three Cups, in opposition to the former White Hart, which stood on either side of Bank Passage, the former courtyard of the inn, on the south side of the street. Its lengthy title was soon changed to the 'Three Cups', and in the course of time it extended its premises on the east side to include the former 'Queens Head', an ancient hostelry known as the Falcon in the days of King Henry VI, and closed about 1760. One of its most

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 28th May 1965



famous guests was the Irish peer the Earl of Masserene, who came to the inn with his beautiful countess, some time after their release from imprisonment on the eve of the fall of the Bastille in 1789.

The halcyon days of the Cups, 'an inn where travellers bait, then post away', were during the long years of the Great French War. It then justified its claim, made in 1819, to be 'one of the First Inns in England... to say more in an advertisement than it is the Three Cups at Colchester, is scarcely necessary, for in all Europe this House is well known and recognised.' Here in September 1794, the Earl of Onslow gave a 'sumptuous entertainment' to his brother officers of the Surrey Fencible Dragoons. Five years later Admiral Duncan stayed at the inn, and in August 1800, the Turkish ambassador and suite in five carriages changed horses. In June 1801, came Count Bernstorff, the Danish Ambassador, the Earl of Clanwilliam, and later Lord Nelson stopped at 2.00pm for refreshment, followed in July by the Prince de Conde, and in February 1802 by the Princess of Monaco.

The most illustrious company ever assembled at the inn was in November 1807, when the exiled Louis XVIII of France, the Comte d'Artois, the Duc de Berri and other noblemen gathered in the 'elegant large new room'. In November 1810, came the Count de Gottrop, the exiled King of Sweden. In the 'New Room' where Incledon, the famous tenor, sang, the Countess of Chatham and the Earl of Dartmouth were present at a grand ball in September 1812. In August 1813, the Prince Regent with the Marquis of Hertford stopped on their way into Suffolk, as they did on other occasions. In November 1816, came Prince Esterhazy, and in December 1823, the royal Duke of York, the Duke of Wellington, Viscount Granville, and others, to change horses. George Green, the balloonist, was here in December 1827, and in May 1833, the Duke and Duchess of St Albans, the latter an actress, and widow of James Coutts, the banker. Daniell O'Connell, 'the Liberator,' took breakfast in June 1836.

Here stayed in Victorian days Major General Gascoigne, Commandant of the New Camp in 1856, as did the Earl of Cardigan of Balaclava fame in 1866. Next year, Matthew Arnold, the poet, who declared it to be 'one of the best inns in England'. In 1887 came, among others, General Miller, the Bishop of Colchester, Corney Grain, the entertainer, the Marquis of Ripon and Lord Monkwell. Earl Roberts, VC ('Bobs') was here in July 1903, and in the following year, Prince Alexander of Teck, Generals French, Bruce Hamilton and Baden-Powell, with a dozen foreign attachés, who were 'Guests of the King'. The popular actress, Ellen Terry, with her husband, James Carew, stayed one night in August 1908 - and so the roll runs.



A charabanc outing for the 'lads' in the 1920s, with the Cups in the background.

In 1968, a newspaper's headline read, 'Rush to wreck town's most elegant room, flagrant violation says civic society.' Colchester Borough Council were being accused of acting with untypical haste because a preservation order was being considered by the Ministry of Works. Colchester Civic Society had been campaigning for the preservation of the dining room, which was said to have been used for the reception of Louis XVIII when he visited the town in 1807.

Special features of the room were the gilded columns and balustrade of the minstrel's gallery, and these are being preserved for the museum. (Indeed (in 2015) they are so preserved in the Charles Gray Lecture Room in the castle, although looking a little out of context with their Norman surroundings.)



Tuesday, March 12, 1968

4d

**FLAGRANT VIOLATION, SAYS  
CIVIC SOCIETY**

# RUSH TO WRECK TOWN'S MOST ELEGANT ROOM



THE PHILISTINE MOMENT. Within hours of the council's decision to demolish the wreckers' axe goes to work — *Gazette photo* by John Adams

© Copyright of Newsquest Media

TWELVE HOURS after a secret meeting of Colchester town council, demolition began of the north wing of the Cups hotel, containing the famous Georgian dining room. The Civic Society is accusing the council of acting with untidy haste because a preservation order on the room was being considered by the Ministry of Works.

"This was flagrant violation of the spirit of the Civic Amenities Act," said Mr Anthony Rowland-Jones, chairman of the society.

The council met in private last on Wednesday night, after the normal public council meeting. Members of the public and reporters were asked to leave.

Councillors then discussed and eventually approved — a recommendation of the town hall executive committee that the north wing of the Cups should be demolished. This recommendation had been passed by the committee consisting of Aldermen Charles Wheeler, Leonard Danner, R. A. Harrison and C. J. Jolly. Mr Derek Lambirth and Brig D. F. Panton — the previous evening.

## CUTTED

At nine o'clock on Thursday morning workmen were already on the site. By one o'clock the wing was reduced to a shell as the inside was gutted.

Councillors were told at their private meeting that preservation of the room would make all the difference between a profit and a loss on the alleged Cups hotel deal. Without the dining room the site could be completely cleared and the Pear Hotel, who are going to build it, would save a great deal

more a loss of £100,000 instead of a profit. Not only would the site be less valuable, but the cost of a new building incorporating the old dining room would also be higher.

The late vote against the demolition of the dining room was cast by Alderman. Everybody else either voted in favour or abstained.

## PLAN REJECTED

The council planners have already turned down one Post Office plan for the site because the proposed building was too high and would have overshadowed the town hall.

Colchester Civic Society has been campaigning for over two years for the preservation of the dining room, which was used for the reception of Louis XVIII when he visited the town in 1807.

Special features of the room were the gilded columns and balustrade of the mezzanine gallery, and these are being preserved for the museum.

The first hint of the possibility of a preservation order being made came on February 23, when a Ministry of Public Building and Works technical officer visited the site, with representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Post Office and the county council. They inspected the dining room and discussed ways in which it could be preserved.

## APPEAL

The visit was made in response to an appeal from the civic society to the county council and Government departments.

The building was classed as grade three in the list of historic and important buildings.

## CUPS ROOM DEMOLITION

\* Continued from page 1.

upgraded to class two, a six-month delay for objections would have been imposed before demolition could be considered.

The grade three listing allowed the council to take untidily rapid action with legality," the civic society said.

## "OUTRAGED"

Members of the society declared that they were outraged at the haste with which the council's sudden decision was carried out.

Mr Rowland Jones said they were extremely disappointed; they had hoped to rouse public opinion to contribute enough money to enable them to come to an agreement with the Post Office to save the room, by

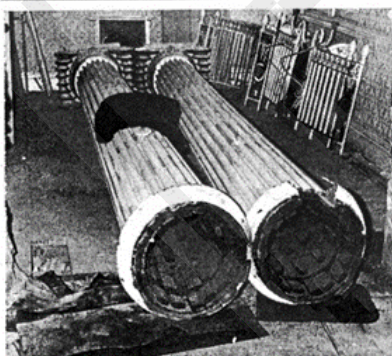
incorporating it in their rebuilding plans.

Mr K. R. Mabbitt, vice-chairman of the society, said destruction of the room may have been inevitable, but he deplored the furtive manner in which it had been carried out.

"The decision was taken one evening and the next morning the men were there to smash it. I saw them myself when I went to collect my car from the Cups. We feel they were jumping the gun and stepping in before a protest could follow," he said.

## INSENSITIVE?

Circumstances might have been different if the town had someone who was sensitive to its charm and character to mastermind development.



Laid out, left, during demolition work at the Cups Hotel are two of the pillars from the dining room. Right, a workman removes some of the decorative work.



## CUPS HOTEL

HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER,  
ESSEX

Trust House Grading \*\*\*

Telephone No. 322111

### TARIFF

Please read the tariff in conjunction with the notes on page 3

		£	s.	d.
Single Room and Breakfast	per night	17	6	
Double or Twin-bedded Room and Breakfast	per night	1	15	0
Luncheon (3 courses)		5	6	
Afternoon Tea		2	6	
Dinner (3 courses)		7	0	

#### Inclusive Terms per person

(if claimed when the room is booked)

for a stay of 4, 5 or 6 days	per day	1	8	6
for a stay of a week or longer	per day	1	5	6
for a stay of a week or longer	per week	8	18	6

	s.	d.
Extras : Early Morning Tea	9	
Coffee after meals	9	
Service of meals in bedroom	1	0
Garage overnight	2	0

Special terms are charged at Christmas

The terms quoted are subject to revision without notice

TRUST HOUSES LIMITED



## CUPS HOTEL

COLCHESTER, ESSEX

The Cups Hotel (formerly the Three Cups as may be seen from the decoration below its bow windows) was re-fronted at the end of the 19th century but rebuilt 100 years earlier. Its elegant dining room is elaborately decorated in the style of 1807 when Louis XVIII visited the Inn. Colchester was built by the Romans in the 1st century and King Cole is one of its legendary heroes. Parts of the Roman walls and gates survive. The Castle is Norman, built on Roman foundations, and now houses a fine Museum. The town has several houses of the 15th and 16th centuries and also many pleasant later buildings. It stands on the navigable River Colne, does thriving business, is a garrison town and has a famous oyster fishery.

TRUST HOUSES LIMITED

1955

54



## CUPS HOTEL

HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER

Telephone No. 322111

### ACCOMMODATION

35 bedrooms with hot and cold water and gas or electric fires. 4 bathrooms. Central Heating in Public Rooms. 3 Stockrooms. Car Park in Hotel yard free during meals. Garage under cover for 30 cars. Separate lock-ups for 5 cars.

### LOCAL PARTICULARS

51 miles from London by road. Station 1 mile. Harwich 10 miles. Ipswich 18 miles. Direct coach service from London. Early Closing, Thursday. Market Day, Saturday.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

**ROOM PRICES.** The price quoted for room and breakfast is not subject to reduction if breakfast is not taken. In resort and tourist hotels forward bookings are not generally accepted during the season at room and breakfast rates.

**INCLUSIVE TERMS** must, if desired, be claimed when the room is booked; they include breakfast, a three-course luncheon, afternoon tea, and the "house" dinner. No reduction is made for meals not taken.

**MEAL VOUCHERS.** The visitor on inclusive terms at this Hotel can take either lunch or dinner, and tea, at any other Trust House without extra charge by getting a voucher from the Reception Office. There is no guarantee of a table at a particular time. The facility cannot be used between Trust Houses in the same town or in the Company's London Hotels and Restaurants, or on Christmas Day or Boxing Day.

**CHILDREN.** A reduction of 50 per cent. is made for a child under eight years old when it is possible to provide an extra bed in a single or double room occupied respectively by one or two adults. These terms provide supper (not dinner) for the child.

**TIPS** are not included in the bill. The Manager will if requested make an addition of 10 per cent. to the bill to cover these.

**BANK HOLIDAYS.** Generally, except in Scotland and in business towns, an inclusive charge for the Bank Holiday week-end is made without allowance for meals not taken.

**CHEQUES** cannot be accepted unless they are tendered in sufficient time for clearance. The Travellers' Cheques of the leading Banks and Agencies are accepted without notice.

**DOGS.** The Manager has discretion regarding acceptance of dogs. If accommodated, a charge of 2s. 6d. per day is made on condition that the owner accepts responsibility for the cost of making good any damage. Dogs are not allowed in the dining room.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

1792 to 1794	John Nunn (Three Cups)	Universal
1805 to 1811	William Ralton	Holden's
1822 to 1833	Robert Skitter	Pigot's
1839 to 1856	George Chaplin	Pigot's and White's
1845	George Chaplin, Wine Merchant	Post Office
1851 to 1855	George Chaplin, Wine & Spirit Merchant & Funeral Carriage Proprietor	Post Office
1851	George Chaplin, innkeeper, age 44, born Rochester together with his wife, their three children, a cook, a barmaid, a chambermaid, four waiters, nine general servants, five visitors	Census
1861	John W Salter, Hotel Keeper, age 44, born Norfolk, together with his wife, sister, four barmaids, two room maids, a needlewoman, three housemaids, three kitchen maids, a clerk to the hotel, a waiter, two porters, a pantry boy, an ostler	Census
1862 to 1867	John Wythe Salter, Wine & Spirit Merchant	Kelly's and Post Office
1870	Mrs. Ann Salter, Wine & Spirit Merchant	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Ann Salter, Innkeeper & Land Owner, age 28, born Norfolk together with her niece, a visitor, a housekeeper, ten servants, a chambermaid, a kitchen maid, two clerks	Census
1874 to 1882	Samuel Besford, Wine & Spirit Merchant	Kelly's
1881	Samuel Besford, Hotelkeeper, age 49, born Yarmouth together with his wife, their son, his sister, two visitors, a cook, a kitchen maid, a scullery maid, a needlewoman, a barmaid, a stillroom maid, a boots, an ostler, a post boy, three housemaids and a boy	Census
1886	Miss. L. E. M. Dale, Manageress	Kelly's
1891	Thomas W Brown, age 50	Census
1894 to 1895	Thomas William Brown, Proprietor	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Charles Woodward	Kelly's
1901	George L Hart, Manager Partner of Hotel, age 55, born Chelsea together with his wife, their two daughters, a niece, a book keeper, two barmaids, a cook, two hotel porters, two waiters, four housemaids, two kitchenmaids, two boarders	Census
1902	Edward J. Hart, Proprietor & Jobmaster & Postmaster, Livery Stable Keeper, Wedding Carriage, Funeral Car Proprietor &c.	Kelly's
1907	E. J. Hart, Proprietor	Benham's
1908	Edward J. Hart	Kelly's
1912 to 1917	Edward Julians Hart	Kelly's
1925	Stanley R. Forbes, Manager	Kelly's
1933	Trust Houses Ltd.	Kelly's

The site of that grand Victorian building, and its far older interior, is now occupied by a row of architecturally uninspiring shops. Should the people who were responsible for this premeditated and wanton destruction of our heritage have hung their heads in shame?

also known as the **Three Cups**

also less commonly known as the **Three Punch Bowls**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 1945

### Cups - 2

Trinity Street

1977 to 2003 (map 52)

a public house

now a shop



The licence for this present day town pub was granted to leaseholders Greene King in 1977, despite predictable opposition from other licensees in the locality<sup>1</sup>. The massive three cups sign that once adorned the original Cups Hotel in the High Street was resurrected and the building strengthened to enable it to carry its new sign.

The pub soon became a popular venue for the young people of the town, with summer time especially popular as customers could sit on the church yard wall outside with a drink and watch the world go by. However, as is so often the case, a minority of low-life idiots spoiled it for the majority, with complaints of nuisance being levelled at the pub and the authorities stepping in. Railings to replace those that had originally been taken away during the war for the war effort, were put up again around the church and a ban on drinking

outside the pub introduced.

On the subject of the, now famous, land mark that the sign has become, it was made by Mr Hector Moore of Brandeston, Suffolk, a wrought iron specialist. It is 5 feet across and weighs 6 cwt (that's 1.5 metres and 305kg in new money) and was hand beaten in copper and then gilded. It was installed on the front of the Cups Hotel in High Street in 1959<sup>2</sup>.

After continued poor performance, despite various refurbishments and attempts to change its image, the pub closed in 2002 and the site is now occupied by a clothes shop. However, the magnificent, and much loved, sign stayed and, in 2006, a campaign was started to save the sign from being removed and sold off<sup>3</sup>.



The later Cups in 1991

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### Cups Gin Shop

St Martin

High Street

19th century

a gin shop

demolished

The earliest record found referring to this gin shop is when, on 31st May 1810, the parishioners of St Runwald's went on a perambulation to establish the bounds of the parish. On this occasion, ten year old Samuel Chapman, was passed through 'an opening Pane' in a bow window on the east side of a gin-shop forming part of the Three Cups Inn, to 'determine the Right of Passage by the said Passage, in making its Perambulation, when it was ascertained that the Boundaries of the Parish of St Runwald, run in a straight line from the said Window, taking in the Laundry and Spirit Warehouse, now in the tenure of Mr Wm. Ralton' of the Cups<sup>4</sup>.

This premises is shown in the 1881 census when Amos Green, age 39, was the manager.

It is mentioned here only as a reference rather than as a pub.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1977

<sup>2</sup> CG – 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 1959

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2006

<sup>4</sup> ECS – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1947



## Cups Tap

High Street

1889 to 1960

a tap room

demolished

Most hotels in the town had a taproom at the side or back. The Cups was no exception, with the licence being granted in 1889 and existing until it closed in 1960. It was owned by the Three Cups Hotel Ltd and then later by Trust Houses.

The various directories and census records show the following information about this premises:

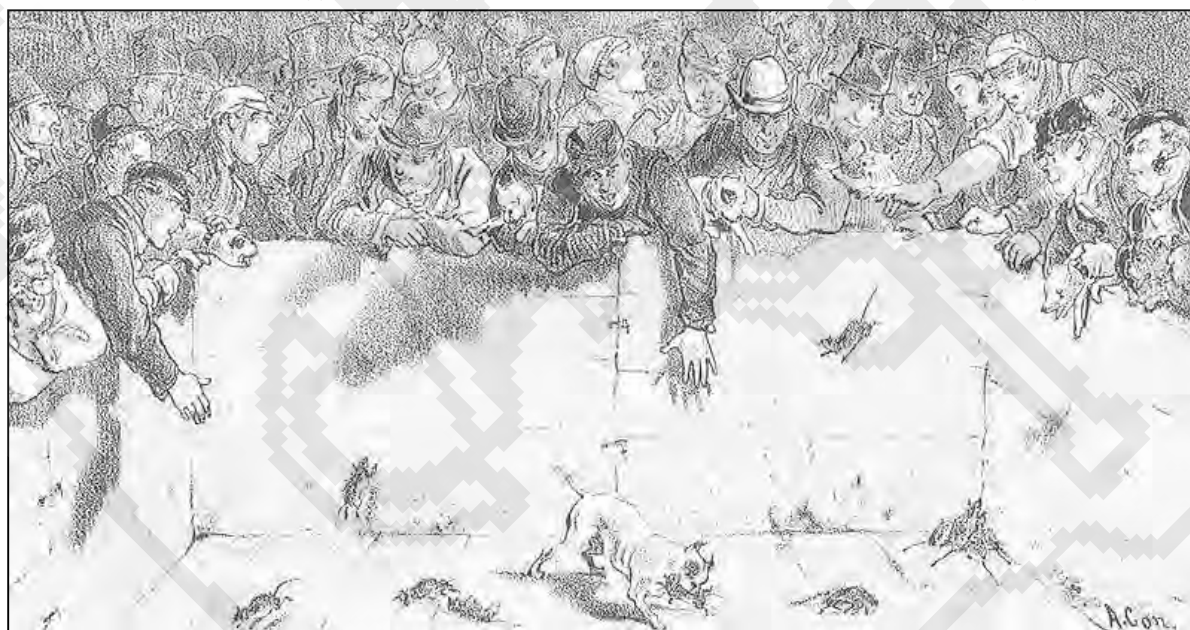
1848	Charles Quiver	White's
1851	Charles Guiver, hotel waiter, age 35, born Great Baddow together with his wife, son and niece.	Census
1881	William Potter, Publican, age 49, born Monks Eleigh together with his wife, their five children	Census
1901	George Firman, Cab Driver & Publican, age 34, born Nayland together with his wife, their three children and a niece barmaid	Census
1912	Mrs. Alice Firman	Kelly's
1914 to 1917	Cyril Robert Baker	Kelly's
1925	Victor E. Flaxman	Kelly's

also known as the **Three Cups Tap**

*Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.*

Benjamin Franklin

## RATTING



Ratting was another sport enjoyed by Colchester people. A pit was created and filled with rats that were then killed by dogs, with bets placed on which dog was the best ratter. A combination of the quickest time, the number of rats and the dog's weight decided the victory. A rate of five seconds per rat killed was considered quite satisfactory; fifteen rats in a minute was an excellent result. The Spread Eagle at Middleborough was known for this sport (as well as for badger baiting). This illustration is of ratting at the Turnspit PH, Quakers Alley.