



*I pray thee let me and my fellow have  
A haire of the dog that bit us last night.*

John Heywood - 1546

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## Dagmar

29 Crouch Street

c1870 to 1909

a beer house

now a shop

The name of this beerhouse is probably of Germanic origin, Dagmar being a German woman's name. Its naming could date from 1866 in honour of the wedding of the Danish Princess Marie Dagmar to the future Tsar of Russia, Alexander III. Whatever the reason, the landlord of the time probably had links with Germany or the German Legion that was stationed in Colchester.

The house was owned by Nicholls who closed it in 1909.

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

1870 to 1882	William Wells, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	William Wells, Innkeeper & Pensioner, age 61, born Wickenbrook, Suffolk, together with his wife and a lodger	Census
1886	Henry Crompton, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	William Wells	Census
1894	William Rand, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Alfred Whitten, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1902 to 1908	Alfred J. Jones, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

The building still stands but is now a shop.

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## Deals

Middlesbrough

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

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## Diamond

Lexden

Heath Road

see the **Dog and Pheasant**

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## Dickens Inn

St Botolph's

Magdalen Street

see the **Judge and Jury**

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## Danny's Bar

Greenstead Road

see the **Bucks Horns**

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## Dog and Pheasant - 1

Mile End

20 Mile End Road  
(previously High Road)  
CO4 5EG

1811 to date

a public house

The name of the pub would have been taken from a popular country theme, that of game hunting with the dog retrieving the pheasant for his master, no doubt followed by drinks all round.



It was first mentioned in the licensing records in 1811, although, under its previous name the Spread Eagle, it dates back to at least the 1760s. It was later owned by Steward and Pattesons and subsequently bought by Greene King around 1903. The various census entries give the following details:

It is here that the Pumpkin Club thrives, a band of dedicated growers who urge their plants to outgrow every body else's and to claim the prize for the biggest pumpkin at the end of the season. The club claims to be the oldest in Essex and its record for the biggest pumpkin stands at 140lb.

The pub was extensively refurbished by Greene King in 1971<sup>1</sup>, opening up the first floor to give a high ceiling in the bar area and a mezzanine style seating area. Ken and Ann Harvey were the landlords at that time. The pub sign is from 1991.



The Dog and Pheasant, date unknown.

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

1839	James Ward	Pigot's
1848	Sarah Thompson	White's
1851	Ratcliff Pearl Rose	Post Office
1855	J Ward	Post Office
1861	James Atkinson, Publican, age 41	Census
1862 to 1870	James Atkinson	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	James Atkinson, Publican, age 51, born Boxted together with his wife and a servant	
1874	Edward Hawes	Census
1878	Francis Shelton	Kelly's
		Kelly's

<sup>1</sup> EG – 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 1973

1881	George W. Churchman, Licensed Victualler, age 65, born Poplar together with his wife, his manager son and daughter in law	Census
1882	George William Churchman	Kelly's
1886	James Price	Kelly's
1891	Harry Blewett, Publican & Ships Steward, age 44, born Dartford together with his wife and a nephew	Census
1894 to 1895	Robert John Stone	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Robert William Strong	Kelly's
1901	Frederick W Strong, Licensed Victualler, age 41, born Bath together with his wife and two servants	Census
1902	Frederick William Strong	Kelly's
1908 to 1912	Thomas Blake	Kelly's
1917	John A. Rowe	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	William S. Crowe	Kelly's
1994	Dick and Marion Wells, managers	CE



The Dog and Pheasant, Mile End, in 1991

previously the **Spread Eagle**

c1760 to 1810

It first appears by this name in the alehouse recognisances of 1764, although is probably of a greater age.

### **Dog and Pheasant - 2**

Lexden

Heath Road  
(previously Cross Road)

c1852 to c1871

a beer house?

now a private house

This was the second pub of this name in Colchester. It is now known as Heath Lodge and is recognisable for its diamond shaped brickwork that gave rise at the time to its nickname - the Diamond.

Mr Arthy, a gardener at the house (c1999) and part time local historian, had carried out some research into the history of the building. It would appear that the pub was built by Henry Winnock Haywood, shortly after the land was purchased by him in 1851. The original building was much smaller than it now is, having been much added-to by successive owners. It would have enjoyed the custom of the occupants of the surrounding cottages which were built on what was then known as Lexden Heath. It did not remain as a public house for very long, becoming the private residence of Mr Morton, the solicitor and in 1999 was occupied by his grand daughter, Miss Beattie JP.

The pub is mentioned in the census of 1861 when one Robert Lawrance, age 35, was in residence, describing himself as a Carter and Beer Seller.

also known as the **Blue Diamond** or the **Diamond**



## Dolphin

St Leonard

126 Hythe Hill

18th century to 1939 (map 41)

a public house

now offices



Hythe Hill and the Dolphin c1920, from a picture postcard.

The name of the pub is one associated with the sea and would therefore have been an attraction to seafaring folk as they strolled up the hill to town from the docks. How many of those seafarers would have witnessed schools of dolphins swimming ahead of their boat as it made its way to lands afar?

The earliest mention found is from Michaelmas 1757, when William Summersum informed 'Gentlemen, Farmers and others' that he had removed from 'the Dolphin in the Hyth parish to the White Swan in the same parish.'<sup>1</sup> This house first appears in the alhouse recognisances of 1764 and then through to 1819, when the trail continues through trade directories and other sources.

From 1872 to 1886 it was owned by Osborne who sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company, who in turn sold it to Daniells in 1903. The Dolphin closed in 1939 and the full publican's licence transferred to the Crown at Lexden.

The front of the cover of this book, from a painting by Major Bale, shows this inn as it would have looked in 1887. It was a timber framed building of perhaps the 16th century or earlier, still standing but which was extensively restored in the 1950s. The cover picture also shows a building next to St Leonard's church with a bow fronted upper storey, which would then have been the Packet Inn, another house with a maritime connection to its name.

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

1822 to 1824	John Creffield	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	John Chisnal	Pigot's
1832 to 1839	James Halls	Pigot's
1845	James Halls Shipowner	Post Office
1848 to 1862	James Halls	White's, Post Office, census, Kelly's
1851	James Halls	Census
1861	James Hall, inn keeper, age 61	
1867 to 1891	Mrs. Eliza Halls	Post Office, Kelly's, census
1871	Eliza Halls, widow, age 66	Census
1891	Eliza Halls, age 86 [still pulling the pints!]	Census
1894 to 1902	Thomas Ancliffe	Kelly's, census
1907	? Southgate	Benham's
1908	George Southgate	Kelly's
1912	John Edmund Southgate	Kelly's

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956

1917 to 1925 James Sainty  
1933 to 1937 Mrs. Lillie Sainty

Kelly's  
Kelly's

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### The **Dragoon**

St Giles

82 Butt Road

The name of the pub is another reference to Colchester's military connections, it being located close to the cavalry barracks. A dragoon was a cavalry soldier, originally a mounted infantryman armed with a short musket or carbine called a dragoon.

see the **Ale House**

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### **Drury Arms**

Layer Road

1964 to 2011

a public house

closed in 2011



The name of the pub appears to have come from Sir Nicholas Drury, the landowner in the area in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Drury Road later taking its name from the same source. As an aside, local terminology refers to 'druary' being a crossroads, traditionally where suicides were buried. [see the Mariners.]

In 1912, at the Brewster's Sessions, an application was made for a provisional authorising the removal of the licence of the British Hotel in West Stockwell Street, to a spot near the junction of Layer Road and Drury Road. This was opposed by Mrs Stevens, general shop keeper, of Butt Road, who was applying for an off licence and Messrs Appleton and Moss, builders. Mr Jones, solicitor acting for Messrs Daniell and Sons, remarked that he was not applying for a new licence, for any addition to the licensing register, but simply to be allowed to remove a licence from a somewhat congested part of the town to a part where there was no licensed house for several hundred yards, and where several hundred houses had been built in the last ten years. The British Hotel was an old

established fully licensed house that had been very respectably conducted. Last year the licence was objected to on the grounds of redundancy but after a long hearing, the magistrates determined not to refer the house, though they recommended the then owners Messrs Cuddon to improve the sanitary arrangements. Messrs Daniells had recently purchased the house.



The Drury Hotel in 1964



He pointed out that Mrs Stevens was applying for one of the worst and most dangerous licences that could be given. It was such licences which enabled people to go in a shop to buy a pound of tea and to leave with half a pound of tea and two bottles of beer or a bottle of gin. Mr Jones pointed out that near the site in question was the Layer Road Football Ground, where many persons attended every week, and the proposed house would provide bath room accommodation for the teams, those at the ground themselves being inadequate. He then read a memorial in favour of the proposal and signed by 118 people including a vicar, army officers, school masters, auctioneers, bank clerks, solicitor's clerks, commercial travellers, etc. Mr Charles Clark, secretary of the Football Club, supported the application on the understanding that good dressing room accommodation was provided for visiting teams, with baths, dinner rooms, etc. A director of Messrs Daniells, said that the building would cost more than £2000. The application for a transfer of the licence was granted.



These pictures show the mouldings on the outside of the building in January 2012. They were taken whilst the building was boarded-up and undergoing some building works.



The pub was built in 1913, originally to be named the British Hotel after its predecessor in West Stockwell Street and from which the licence was transferred. The very elaborate and colourful patriotic mouldings that can be seen on the outside of the building today would have been in keeping with this original name. It then became the Drury Hotel until around 1965 when it became the Drury Arms. Bacchus visited in 1963<sup>1</sup> when the licensees were Charles and Joan Amey, who had been there for five years. Its proximity to the Colchester United football ground, made it an obvious choice for football enthusiasts and it was known as 'the footballer's pub.'

The house was owned by Daniells up until 1959 when Trumans took it over. They sold it in 1973 to Tollemache (or Tolly Cobbold), making it their third pub in Colchester (the others being the Buck's Horns and the Bugle Horn), who in turn sold it to Brent Walker in 1991. Extensive renovation work was carried out in 1995 by owners Pubmaster.

previously known as the **Drury Hotel**

Shown in the licensing records by this name from 1913 to 1964. Presumably, Trumans changed its name upon taking it over.

<sup>1</sup> CE - 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1963

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

1917	Frank Spencer	Kelly's
1925	William Driscoll	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Arthur London	Kelly's
1958	Charles Amey	Black Eagle Journal as follows:

"The Amey family has been in the licensed trade for many years and Charles, our tenant at the Drury Hotel, Colchester, is no exception. In 1933, he assisted his father, who was then tenant of the Ship, Clacton on Sea, until 1937 when, at the tender age of 21, he had the licence transformed to himself. He must surely be one of the youngest men ever to be granted a licence. When the war came three years later, Charles handed over his house and joined the RAF, on the technical side. After serving some time in South Africa, he returned home as manager of the Waggon & Horses, Colchester, where his father was licensee.

In 1950, he and his wife Joan, whom he had met in the Forces, were offered the tenancy of the Crown, Thorpe Le Soken, near Clacton. This house had been terribly neglected, and the stock he took over at the change was valued at 15/-, -. This was for one bottle of very dubious port type wine, which is still in his possession. Under the Amey's supervision the house very soon changed into a successful one but, after three years, owing to ill health of Mr Amey, Senior, they returned to the Waggon & Horses.

1955 saw Charles applying for the licence of the Kings Arms, St Osyth, near Clacton. Again, this house was a house which had been run down but yet again, they pulled it round and turned it into a flourishing business.

In 1958 the Ameys were offered the tenancy of the Drury Hotel, Colchester, which they accepted. this was ironical, as many years previously, Charles' father had been an unsuccessful applicant for the house!

Like all other houses with which the Ameys had been connected, the Drury prospers. Apart from being an extremely experienced and efficient publican, Charles is also an expert pianist and organist, which is much appreciated by his customers. The house also has a great darts reputation. This is not surprising as Joan Amey is the ladies champion for Colchester. Apart from winning the Trumans Individual Cup for two years running, she and her partner, Mrs Wales, have won the Essex County Standard Doubles Championship three years running, and last year were defeated at Coventry in the Quarter Finals of the National Trophy.

The Drury Hotel was built in 1914 and owes its name to Sir Nicholas Drury, who was the large land owner in the 15th century. It was originally built speculatively, for if it had not been successful, it was to be converted into two semi-detached houses. However, the barracks are very adjacent and the house was soon popular with the troops, as is the case now. In fact, Drury is known all over the world where British soldiers serve. It is also the nearest pub to Colchester United Football Ground so, as can be imagined, on a Saturday night many arguments ensue.

Black Eagle Journal'

previously known as the **British Hotel**

Known only briefly by this name, due to it taking the licence of the previous British Hotel. The owners soon gave it its new name in keeping with the district in which it was located.

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### Drury Hotel

Layer Road

see the **Drury Arms**

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### The Duchess

High Street

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

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**Duke of Connaught**

East Street

c1880

a beerhouse

location uncertain

The name of this beerhouse is probably a reference to Prince Arthur (1850 to 1942), the third son of Queen Victoria. Why this name was chosen is unknown.

The only reference found to this house is in a list of public houses drawn up by an anonymous compiler recalling pubs in the town around 1880.

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**Duke of Marlborough's Head**

St Botolph's Street

see the **Marlborough Head****Duke of Wellington**

St Giles

162 Magdalen Street

1817 to 1907 (map 26)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is a common one throughout the country and commemorates one Arthur Wellesley who, in 1814, became the Duke of Wellington. Apart from giving his name to the boot of that name, his brilliant military career culminated in victory over the Emperor Napoleon in 1815. During his later political career, his actions led to the Beerhouse Act of 1830, the consequence of which produced many beerhouses in the town, some of which still exist today as public houses.

This house is first mentioned in the alehouse recognisances in 1817, fitting perfectly with the career success of its namesake, and very much in keeping with Colchester's proud military links. It was owned by Cobbold from at least 1843 as a plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of Messrs Cobbold, in 1843. This can be seen at the Essex Record Office.

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

1822 to 1824	William Warren	Pigot's
1831 to 1839	Simon Day	Pigot's and Publican's Licenses
1845 to 1851	John Warner	White's and Post Office
1851	Charles Richardson, victualler, age 24, born Stanway together with his wife and three others	Census
1852	J. Warner	Kelly's
1855	C. E. Richardson	Kelly's
1861	Charles E Richardson, Publican & Rag Merchant, age 32, born Stanway, together with his wife, their four children and three lodgers	Census
1862 to 1867	Charles Richardson, Marine Store Dealer	Kelly's and Post Office
1870 to 1871	John Sawkins	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	John Sawkins, Carter, age 47, born Langenhoe together with his wife, four children and a lodger	Census
1878	William Platford	Kelly's
1881	William Platford, Publican, age 66, born Colchester together with his two daughters and two boarders	Census
1882 to 1886	William Platford	Kelly's
1891	William Platford, age 76 together with eight lodgers	Census
1901	William E Bacon, Licensed Victualler, age 51, born Colchester, together with his wife and eight boarders	Census

At the licensing sessions of 1861, a complaint was made against the landlord, William Richardson, that he harboured suspicious characters and that he would not render assistance to the police by giving the information that was necessary. His licence was suspended.

Cobbold sold it to the Colchester Brewing Company in 1883. It was closed in 1907.

The building was demolished some time after 1968, as shown on a map of that date.

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## Duke of York

82, 83 Barrack Street

The name of this pub is another popular one, with many Dukes of York having been depicted on pub signs. The best known Duke of York is arguably the 'Grand Old Duke of York' who 'marched his men to the top of the hill, and he marched them down again', of nursery rhyme fame.

see the **Churchill Arms**

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## Duke's Head

?

19th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub would have referred to a past duke of unknown identity.

This house is mentioned in building deeds dated 1682 to 1843, which included land where the Ipswich Arms, Duke's Head and the Red Cow once stood.

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## Duke William

34 Barrack Street

19th century

a beer house?

now private house

This premises is a mystery. The author gave a talk to a group of people in 1996 and one of the audience drew attention to the fact that the first edition of this book did not include this house which he stated was a pub between 1810 and 1843. He owned the deeds to the property which gave the name, but the name does not appear in licensing records up to 1819.

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## Duncan's Head Inn

St Mary at the Walls

Head Street

1798 to 1863

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub came about after the naval victory in 1797 of Admiral Duncan at Camperdown, off the Dutch coast.

It is first mentioned in alehouse recognisances in 1798 and appears in trade directories up until 1863. When applying for a licence in 1861<sup>1</sup>, the magistrates heard complaints as to the disreputable persons frequenting the house. The landlord, Isaac Horne, was warned about the conduct of the house. It was admitted that some of the militia had gone up to the house and taken their music with them, with girls of the town too! 'Girls will follow the soldiers.' He was warned that the music and the dancing must stop.

*Colchester, March 20, 1766.*

*This is to give Notice to all Gentlemen Volunteers who are willing to serve in His Majesty's 22nd Regiment of Foot, whereof Major-General the Hon. Thomas Gage is Colonel, that all that are that Way inclined, shall receive a Bounty of One Guinea and a Half, and from the date of their Attestation will enter upon immediate Pay. When they join the Regiment at Chatham Barracks, they are to be cloathed and completely furnished with all Necessaries. Any willing to try so genteel and commendable a Life, shall meet with all Indulgence possible.*

*Age and Size to be as follows, viz. under 30 Years of Age and above 20 years, 5 Feet 7 Inches; under 20 Years of Age, 5 Feet 6 Inches; Such, by applying to Captain Fenner at Mr Hicks' in the High Street, or to Serjeant Wilkinson at the Noah's Ark in Head Street, may be more fully satisfied. NB. The said Regiment is very lately come from Abroad, consequently not likely to leave Great Britain for many years.*

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<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep 1861?

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

1811	I Calver (Admiral Duncan)	Holden's
1818	James Calver	Will
1822 to 1824	James Ward	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	John Holman	Pigot's
1832 to 1833	Sarah Hines	Pigot's
1839	William Payne	Pigot's
1845	Edward Good	Post Office
1848	William Death	White's
1851	James Ely, innkeeper, age 30, born Mistley together with his wife, a servant and a visitor	Census
1855	James Ely	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Stephen Hewes, Inn keeper & ironmonger, age 51, born Colchester, together with his wife, their daughter and a visitor	Census
1862	George Nicholls, Cattle Dealer	Kelly's

The following is based on an article written by Gerald Rickword on the occasion of the demolition of Gravedona House in 1962<sup>1</sup>. In it he recalled memories of Headgate down the centuries.

The early history of the house, which had an early 17th century wing at the back with a projecting upper storey, is buried in the past like so much of the town. At the time of the siege in 1648 it was the scene of fierce fighting, when the Roundheads attempted to storm the gate, then still in existence and later finally removed in 1756. Miles Gray, who died in 1649, wrote in his will that he was 'weake in body and crazed with age' and left to his wife Dorothy, 'the capitall messuage or tenement lately burned down, situate and being below Head Gate, commonly called or being known by the name of the Swann with the two Neckes, and also .....

The following notice appeared in the Ipswich Journal, similar bills being pasted upon church doors, public notice-boards, in tap rooms, and other likely places where 'Serjeant Kite' might find his prey.

It was occupied in the mid 18th century as a public house, the Noahs Ark, kept by John Mott, a member of a Flemish family who settled in Colchester in the 16th century and whose family became famous as bell-casters. The justices' books recorded in 1749 that Samuel Cross, a butcher, went to the Bull in Crouch Street 'to meet the Calf Jobbers from Suffolk,' when four men 'made a violent assault by throwing hard things, and he went to the Noah's Ark to shun their company, but they followed him there and very much abused him by pinioning his neck down to the ground with a stick and shoved him over a chair and hurt his left leg and otherwise ill treated him.'

Hezekiah Dyer held the Noah's Ark in 1764 and two years later, when Humphrey Argent was landlord, the stirring sounds of 'rub-a dub, rub-a-dub' were frequently heard when Sergeant Wilkinson of the 22nd Regiment, fresh from the battlefields of America and the West Indies, was billeted there and engaged in beating up for recruits. (Gage's Regiment performed garrison duty at home until hostilities broke out in America, when they sailed for Boston in 1775.)

The justices' book recorded another disturbing incident in 1785, when John Rigg of St Runwald's, a labourer, declared on oath that between 9.00am and 10.00pm, he went in to the Noah's Ark alehouse 'to call for a pint of beer where several persons were playing at the game called 'nine holes' and Ebbourn, a stone mason, John Aldus, a gardener. William Clark, a barber and peruke maker, and William Baker, a weaver, all assaulted him by holding him by the hair of his head, his collar and arms, and dragging him into the street, and rending his clothes.'

In 1797, when William Wright was mine host, Admiral Duncan's famous victory off Camperdown was celebrated in the town with much enthusiasm. The sign of the house was quickly changed to the Duncan's Head, Joshua Heard being granted a licence by that name in 1798. The following year, the then Viscount Duncan of Camperdown, stayed at the Cups Hotel on his way to Yarmouth to join the fleet. It is more than likely that he viewed, with amusement, the portrait in Head Street, purporting to be in his likeness. During subsequent years, there were many changes in landlord, which could not have helped the reputation that the house had. In 1856, complaints were laid before the magistrates of the way the house was being conducted, it being alleged 'the house was frequently kept open much beyond the hour for closing, and that it was the resort for the basest of characters.' During that year, Isaac Horn applied for the renewal of the licence, but was opposed by the Reverend C.A.L'Oste, among others, it being stated that the premises were 'the scene of advertised concerts contrary to the licence,' and it was 'conducted like a brothel and was one of the worst houses in the town.'

<sup>1</sup> ECS - 14<sup>th</sup> Sep 1962

The reputation of the house received a further shock when in 1862, John Casey was charged with obtaining a horse from Peter Thompson of Great Bentley by representing himself to be a sub-contractor of the new Cavalry Barracks, and failing to pay the agreed purchase money on the arranged day. The police found Thompson's horse in the Duncan's Head stable, whilst other persons, similarly victimised, took the law into their own hands and forcibly removed their horses from the same place.

The licence was extinguished the following year and 'the sound of revelry by night' was no longer to be heard from within its walls. The property was taken over by Henry Aggio, pianoforte and harmonium maker and, soon after, the legend 'Gravedona House' appeared on the fascia, high up on the building.

A newspaper of 1863 printed the following article.

"We are glad to notice one symptom of re-action in the rapid increase of public houses and beer shops in almost every street of the town, and particularly in the vicinity of the camp. Within the last few weeks the 'Red White and Blue,' Military Road has been transformed into a Provision Store, and now the old 'Duncan's Head' at Headgate, which has been carried on as a public house for upwards of half a century (of late with very indifferent character,) is in the hands of the bricklayers and carpenters for conversion into a Musical Instrument Warehouse."

Mr Piers Forrest tells that one of his ancestors, James Calver, was landlord of the Duncan's Head. He was alive on 13th May 1818 (when he signed his will and where he described himself as James Calver of Colchester in the county of Essex, Victualler) and dead by 14th June 1820 (when probate was granted).

Previously known as the **Noah's Ark**

c1744 to 1797

It is shown by this name in 1744, when John Mott was the landlord. It appears in the alehouse recognisances from 1764, but changed its name to the Duncan's Head after the Battle of Camperdown in 1797. Gerald Rickword's article above gives more details of the history of this house. The Universal Directory for 1792 to 1794 gives Widow Withers as the licensee.

Reputedly previously named the **Swan with two Necks**

c1600 to c1750

The connection between the Noah's Ark and the Swan with two Necks is from a reference in the will of Miles Gray who died in 1649. He owned the house known as the Swan with two Necks and he was also a very fine bell maker. His description of its location being below Head Gate and the fact that John Mott, from another bell making family, had it as the Noah's Ark, would suggest that they are one and the same. There is a conveyance dated 1605<sup>1</sup> for a messuage called Swanne with Two Neckes although it is not certain that it refers to the same house as this.

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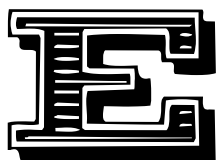
*Four logicians went in to a bar.  
The first logician asks, "Does everybody want a beer?"  
The second logician says, "I don't know."  
The third logician says, "I don't know."  
The fourth logician says, "Yes."*

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<sup>1</sup> ERO - D, DQ 14, 190





*Not turning taps, but pulling pumps,  
Gives barmaids splendid busts and rumps.*

Anon

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### **Earl Cowper**

Ardleigh

513 Ipswich Road

1894 to 1912

a beer house

now a private house

This beer house was technically outside the borough and was licensed by the Tendring area. The owner, Mr Peter Higgins<sup>1</sup>, carried out extensive research into this lovely old house and the following is what he found.

The earliest reference comes from licensing records of 1894. Kelly's Directory of 1898 gives William Jolly as 'Beer Retailer' at the Earl Cowper. Daniell Breweries Ltd. owned the premises until they sold it to a Mr Wright in 1904 for the princely sum of £105. It appears to have ceased as a beer house in 1912 when it was sold, the conveyance describing it as 'all that messuage or tenement lately used as a Beerhouse known by the name of the Earl Cowper with the yards, stabling and outbuildings .....' and situated on the Ipswich Road, Ardleigh. The building still carries the name of Cowper House as a reminder of its past use. The Right Honourable Earl Cowper KG was High Steward of Colchester in 1893 and was both a local landowner and a benefactor of what was then the new library. The house was probably named in his honour.

When the house was in business, its custom would have come from surrounding farm workers and perhaps the adjacent factory premises later known as Betts, the people living in an environment far removed from the urban development that has since sprung up around it.

The 1901 census records the name but does not show a licensee or indicate that it was in business.

also known as the **Lord Cowper**

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### **Earl of Derby**

St Botolph's

Camp Villas

c1871

a public house

location uncertain

The name of this pub was probably taken from Edward George Stanley, the 14th Earl of Derby (1799 to 1869), who was a Whig MP from 1820, and was Prime Minister in 1852, and again from 1858 until 1859. No obvious connection is known between him and Colchester.

The only reference found to this pub is in the 1871 census which showed its location as Camp Villas, in the occupation of William Clerk, age 78, describing himself as a publican.

This pub's location is uncertain, although the census shows that it was within six households of the British Grenadier, within two of Camp Field House and within four of Winsley's Almshouses. It would have been in the vicinity of the Royal Mortar and it is possible that the two were one and the same.

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### **East Gate Inn**

St James

Harwich Road, East Street

2013 to date

a public house

The new name of this pub is a simple reference to the railway crossing gates a short distance away with the general area known as Eastgates. The pub was closed down in 2011 after failing fortunes but was re-opened by this name in 2013 by new owners who wanted to offer a bed and breakfast side to the business.

Previously known as the **Clarendon**

c1850 to 2011 (map 72)

boarded-up in December 2011

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

The pub's name appears to have been taken from Edward Hyde, the first Earl of Clarendon. He lived from 1609 to 1674 and was, at one time, chief adviser to King Charles II. The reason behind the taking of this name is unknown in this instance.



The Clarendon and two of its signs, the top from 1991 and the lower from 2008.

In 1872 it was owned by Bridges who sold it in 1886 to the Colchester Brewing Company. In 1940 it was owned by Ind Coope, who sold it to Greene King in 1991.

In an article by Bacchus in the Colchester Express in 1962, he mentioned a skeleton which lay in the settle with empty bottles surrounding him. No-one knows who he was. The licensee in those days was Mr Roy, who was an artist by profession and a founder member of the Handlebar Club. His moustache measured 30 inches across. Mr Roy painted what became known as the Clarendon Mural, which was later removed to the Royal Oak in 1991 when the pub was sold. A curious coincidence was that some 100 years previously, the 1861 census revealed another painter on the premises!

Up until its closure in late 2011, it was a busy little pub drawing custom from the locality and offering pool and darts facilities. Its failure was probably associated with the fact that it wasn't big enough to be a 'food' pub, with no easy parking for cars. Greene King had been steadily altering its attitude to the profitability of its assets.

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

1851	James Cook, innkeeper, age 55, born Brantham together with his wife, their five children and two others	Census
1855	John Day	Post Office
1862	Henry Page Draper	Kelly's
1867	Martin Robert Harvey	Post Office
1870 to 1874	Thomas Naylor	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Henry Page Draper, age 47, victualler and painter	Census
1871	Alfred G Naylor, Publican & Brick layer, age 40, born Colchester together with his wife, their seven children and two others	Census
1878 to 1895	Robert Bedwell	Kelly's
1881	Robert Bedwell, Licensed Victualler & Carter, age 44, born Norfolk, together with his wife, their five children and one lodger	Census
1898 to 1899	Mrs. Amelia Bedwell	Kelly's
1901	William T Pollard, Publican, age 39, born Assington together with his wife, their four children and an aunt	Census
1902	William Thomas Pollard	Kelly's

1908	William Frederick Wade	Kelly's
1912 to 1925	George Joseph Eley	Kelly's
1933	A. H. Spurgin	Kelly's
1937	Jas Moncur	Kelly's

previously the **Crown and Punch Bowl**

1799 to c1850

The house first appears by this name in the alehouse recognisances of 1799 and continues until 1819. It is shown in trade directories up to 1851 despite the fact that a newspaper of 1839 noted that its licence was suspended, together with that of the Greyhound in St Botolph's Street. The suspension must have been a temporary affair, as the tavern re-appears in the census of 1851, where it gives the inn keeper as James Cook.

In 1843, this house was mentioned in a case of deficient measures. Mrs Ann Daniell, landlady, was summoned by the inspector of weights and measures for having in her possession three quart mugs and one pint mug not of the proper measure. Mrs Daniell stated that she was unaware of this. It was alleged that among all four vessels there was a 9oz deficiency. The mugs had evidently been knocked about a good deal and the inspector admitted that most of the publicans had told him that they had great difficulty in keeping their mugs correct because of the ill treatment by customers. He pointed out that, were he to accept this excuse, there would be little point in making an inspection and that it was his duty to bring these mugs before the court. The court had but one course to take, to convict, believing that there had been no intent and that leniency should be shown. They inflicted a fine of 6d and 11s expenses and ordered the mugs to be forfeited. Mr Simon Munson, landlord of the Sun at Lexden was convicted on a similar charge.

The various directories show the following information about this premises:

1822 to 1824	William Scott	Pigot's
1828 to 1833	Abraham Risby	Pigot's
1839 to 1845	Ann Daniel	Pigot's and Post Office
1848	James Peachey	White's
1851	Thomas Sargeant	Post Office

### Elephant and Castle

Headgate

The name of this pub was as the device used by the Cutlers' Company although, why it was chosen in this instance is unknown. Could it have been an allusion to two important pieces of Colchester's history; that of the elephants that the Emperor Claudius reputedly rode into Colchester in AD43 and second, the Norman castle, built some 1000 years later. It is unlikely to be a reference to the Jumbo water tower, because that was not built until some time after the naming of the pub.

see the **Fox and Fiddler**

### Essex Arms

St Giles

Essex Street or  
Butt Road or  
Mill Street

c1848 to 1962 (map 113)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub would probably be a simple reference to its county name. The Victorians created Essex Street as part of their urban expansion of the town and the pub name would have been an obvious choice, located on the corner in accordance with ancient law and custom.

The Essex Arms first appears in the town's records around 1848, when the building was probably first built and in the occupation of William Gardner. It was bought by Daniells Brewery in 1884.





The Essex Arms c1965

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

1848 to 1851	William Gardner	White's and Post Office
1851	William Bright, innkeeper, age 37, born Woodham Walter together with his wife, two servants and two Prussian travellers	Census
1855 to 1878	William Bright	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	William Bright, Inn Keeper, age 47, born Woodham Walter together with his wife, a servant and an ostler	Census
1871	William Bright, Inn keeper, age 57, born Woodham Walter together with his wife and servant	Census
1881	William Bright, Licensed Victualler, age 67, born Woodham Walter, together with his wife and a barman	Census
1882	Frederick Harry Watt	Kelly's
1886	George Allen	Kelly's
1891	George S Allen, Hotel Keeper, age 22	Census
1894 to 1895	James Bradbury	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Mrs. Matilda Bailey	Kelly's
1901	John T Bailey, Licensed Victualler, age 57, born Colchester together with his wife, their two children, a barmaid and a servant	Census
1902 to 1912	John Thomas Bailey	Kelly's
1914	Alfred Bridge	Kelly's
1917	Mrs. Margaret Bridge	Kelly's
1925	James F. Pallant	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	William Charles Thompson	Kelly's

Sadly we have no anecdotal record of this pub and therefore conclude that it has been well run, with nothing worthy of record. Daniells owned the pub until it was closed in 1962<sup>1</sup> and subsequently demolished to make way for the new Southway development.

<sup>1</sup> CE – 26<sup>th</sup> Apr 1962

Evening Gun

St Mary Magdalen

Magdalen Street

1799 to c1830

a tavern

precise location unknown

The name of this pub would be of military origin, referring to the sound of the gun fired at the end of the day, which signified to some that it was time to pay a visit to the local pub.

The Ipswich Journal, in March 1799, carried an advertisement offering this house, together with others, including the nearby Duke of York, for sale, described as 'newly erected brick dwellings.' As previously mentioned under the Duke of York, Barrack Street (where this house would have stood) took its name from the barracks that were built as part of Britain's defence strategy against Napoleonic invasion from France. There would therefore have been many a soldier looking for a pint of foaming ale at a nearby hostelry.

This tavern first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1799 and in the trade directories until 1827 when, presumably, it closed. Its precise location is unknown.

The following information comes from a trade directory:

1822 to 1829 Henry Montague

Pigot's

*One of life's puzzling oddities is that every centenarian has either used alcohol most of his life or has let it strictly alone.*

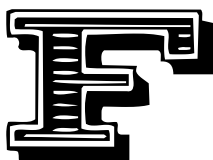
Arnold H Glasgow

Frederick Kempster, the Landermere Giant.

1899 to 1918

These two postcard pictures were taken at the Kings Head in Landermere, near Thorpe le Soken. The name of Edward Carter can be seen over a door. Frederick Kempster lived in the village as a young boy. His was not a happy life and, at his death at the age of 29, he was 2.56 m. (8 ft. 4½ in.) and weighed 171.5 kg. (378 lbs.) and wore size 22 shoes (410 mm., 16 inches long).





*A fine beer may be judged with only one sip,  
but it is better to be thoroughly sure.*

Czech proverb

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## Fagin's Den

see the **Judge and Jury**

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## Falcon Inn - 1

St Peter  
& St Runwald

High Street

The name of this inn is an ancient one whose sign would have been easily recognised by a customer seeking 'the sign of the Falcon.' A falcon is a bird of prey which has given its name to the sport of falconry. It symbolises power and grace and manly pursuits and would have therefore been an ideal choice for the name of an inn or tavern. Falcons also appear in the armorial bearings of Queen Elizabeth I, perhaps occasioning a change in name of the inn. See the Queen Elizabeth's Head for a more detailed discussion of this sign's derivation.

see the **Queen Elizabeth's Head**

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## Falcon - 2

South Street

see the **Crown and Sceptre**

---

## Falcon - 3

St Giles

?

c1667

a tavern

location uncertain

This tavern existed in 1667 and is known to have previously had the name of the Sea Horse<sup>1</sup>. No more is known about it.

see the **Sea Horse**

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## Fat Cat

65 Butt Road  
CO3 3BZ

2006 to date

a public house

This old pub received its new name in 2006. What more can we say? The Keatley family who run other Fat Cats in Norwich and Ipswich announced their plans in April 2006<sup>2</sup>. Under this new name we have little to say, other than that it soon earned a good reputation as a 'real-ale' pub and became a firm favourite amongst those of a certain age.

Previously known as the **Royal**

1903 to 2006

The name of the pub is a shortened version of its previous name which was the Royal Artillery, a regimental name from the nearby barracks. It is another name demonstrating loyalty to the Crown. Over the years, its location has made it a popular stop for off-duty soldiers.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 1934

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2006





The Royal in 1991

The licensing records show that it took this name in 1903, when it was owned by Greene King. It is understood that they then paid £2450 for the freehold.

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

1878	William Hargreaves	Kelly's
1881	Alfred Rogers, Licensed Victualler, age 27, born Stow on the Wold, Gloucester, together with his wife and their son	Census
1882	Alfred Rogers	Kelly's
1886	Joseph Reeder Burwood	Kelly's
1894 to 1899	Richard Watkins	Kelly's
1901	Emily Watkins, Publican, Widow, age 49, born Clapham together with her son, a barmaid and a potman	Census
1902	Frederick Harman	Kelly's
1908	Thomas Miles	Kelly's
1912 to 1914	George Wright	Kelly's
1917	Thomas Kerr	Kelly's
1925	John Banks	Kelly's
1933	Mrs. Pauline Banks	Kelly's

Previously known as the **Royal Artillery**

1877 to 1902 (map 74)

The licensing records show that it took this name in 1877 when it was owned by S & P. It was purchased by Greene King in 1894. It is shown on the 1876 map, looking onto the Butt Windmill that stood across Alexandra Road at that time. It must have been quite an awesome view when looking out of the pub's window.

Also known as the **Artillery Inn**

Joseph Phillips mentioned it by this name in an article he wrote in 1906.

Previously known as the **Victory**

Mill Street (later Butt Road)

c1863 to 1877

At the licensing sessions of 1863<sup>1</sup>, this beerhouse applied for a full public house licence, which was granted. The owners were Messrs. Bridges and the tenant was Benjamin William Beal. The licensing records show it was owned by Steward and Patterson in 1872 who changed its name to the Royal Artillery in 1877. The pub first appears in trade directories in 1870 in the occupation of Emily Brittain. The 1871 census shows her to have been age 45, a widow, described as an inn keeper. Presumably, her husband had the house originally. It is assumed to have been purpose built as a pub around 1863, as it does not appear in an 1866 trade directory, and in response to the inevitable demand from soldiers from the nearby and recently constructed artillery barracks.

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

1867	William Brittain	Post Office
1870	Emily Brittain	Kelly's and Post Office
1874	James Lamb	Kelly's

## Faunus and Firkin

St Runwald

128 High Street

see **After Office Hours**

## Fencers

St Nicholas

Maidenburgh Street

c1749 to 1901 (map 104)

a public house

now a private dwelling

There can be little question that the sign was first displayed in honour of those gallant old 'Masters of ye Noble Science of Defence,' whose exhibitions of foil play and doughty battles with back-sword and quarterstaff drew large crowds to watch them. So claimed Gerald Rickword, writing in 1950.

An article written by Mr Rickword<sup>2</sup> gave some information about this old pub. He stated that the sign was first mentioned in 1749 when the 'Gentlemen of Manningtree, Mistley and Brightlingsea' met their opposite numbers from Colchester in a game of cricket. The sportsmen were invited 'to meet at George Johnson's, the sign of the Fencers in Tenant's Lane, Colchester, wickets to be pitched at one o'clock, and play for 11 guineas, at Colchester, aforesaid: where all gentlemen Cricketers and others, will meet with a hearty Welcome, from their humble servant, George Johnson.'

Johnson held the licence for several years and was there in 1784 when his humble hostelry was one of seven appointed by the Mayor to entertain poor lodgers, and on that account exempted from having soldiers quartered on them. Johnson was a Freeman of the Borough and at the Parliamentary Election in 1768, the Fencers was one of the houses whereat any free-burgess was, on presentation of a ticket, entitled to one shilling's worth of any sort of liquor. William Mann was the licence holder at the close of the century and Thomas Wire followed Mann, holding the licence for over 40 years.

Joseph Phillips wrote in 1906, 'Over half a century ago a resort of many liberals who have been prominent in the town was the Fencers, of Maidenburgh Street then kept by Tom Wire, a renowned Colcestrian, brother to David, who in 1858 was Lord Mayor of London. Chignell Wire, then a most active politician and strenuous fighter, generally known as 'Chig Wire', uncle to the landlord, was sometime chairman of the Liberal Club held therein. On the occasions of the Blue Coat School anniversary the repast, so popular in the old days, was prepared at this hostel. It will be remembered the school building was only a few doors away, and has been an inn - the Artillery Arms - for many years.'

In 1804 a son was born to Mr and Mrs Wire, a son who was to become one of Colchester's most remarkable citizens. He was William Wire who could have reasonably claimed to have been the pioneer of scientific study of archaeology in Colchester - and whose diary has been extensively quoted from in this book.

In 1832, William Mayhew, a Coggeshall solicitor and grandson of a Colchester alderman, visited the town, which he represented in parliament as an Independent Whig, and entertained 'his friends' to supper at the Fencers. Notwithstanding this polite attention, he was decisively beaten at the ensuing General Election.

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

<sup>2</sup> ECS - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun 1950

During the autumn of 1842, a recruiting party of the 98th Regiment was beating up in Colchester, and at the Moot Hall in September, Thomas Wire was fined 40 shillings, with seven shillings costs (the lowest penalty), for refusing to admit a recruit billeted on him, because he was 'not clean.' Mr Wire had his standards it seems! A Thomas Wire was shown in the 1851 census, age 58, described as an inn keeper. He was presumably another of 'Thomas' sons? From around 1870 until 1899, the pub was owned by Grimston, who then sold it with many others that he owned (see the Spinnaker), to Trumans. Their ownership was short lived and the pub was closed with the surrender of the licence in 1901. The 1901 census records the house but shows no licensee on the premises.

A watercolour painted by Bale is held by Colchester Museum and shows the pub as it was around 1892.

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

1749 to 1784	George Johnson	Licensee
c1800	William Mann	Licensee
1822 to 1867	Thomas Wire	Pigot's, White's, Post Office and Kelly's Post Office
1851	Thomas Wire, Plumber & Glazier	
1851	Thomas Wire, innkeeper, age 58, born Colchester, together with his wife, his son and two lodgers	Census
1870 to 1886	Thomas Collins	Kelly's and Post Office
1881	Mary A. Collins, Innkeeper, age 65, born Boxford, together with three lodgers	
1894 to 1895	William Collins	Census Kelly's

Next door to the Fencers, to the south, was a beerhouse named the Artillery Arms, which is thought to have once been the old Bluecoats School, before the later one was built nearby in Helen's Lane.

In the 1950s the building was used as the Church Army Social Centre.

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### Fighting Cocks

Lexden

?

c1740

a tavern

location uncertain

The only reference found to this house was in the museum collection card index. No other details are known of it.

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### First and Last

Black Boy Lane

c1845 to c1848

a beerhouse

location uncertain

First and last what? Who can now tell what the reason was behind the naming of this beerhouse. Neither its exact location is known, nor much else, other than that it made two entries into the Colchester records as follows:

1845	Hannah Bailey	Post Office
1848	Hannah Bailey, Beerhouse Keeper	White's

Note: Premises not named in 1848

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### Flat Iron

34 Osborne Street  
(or St John's Street)

The name of this pub was a local nickname for the pub that resembled a flat iron.

see the **Bath Hotel**

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### Flea and Flannel

Bergholt Road

19th century

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this tavern is of uncertain origin and sounds like a bit of fun.

This tavern is mentioned in an article written by Joseph Phillips in 1906. No more is known about it.

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### Fleece Hotel

St Mary at the Walls

10 Head Street

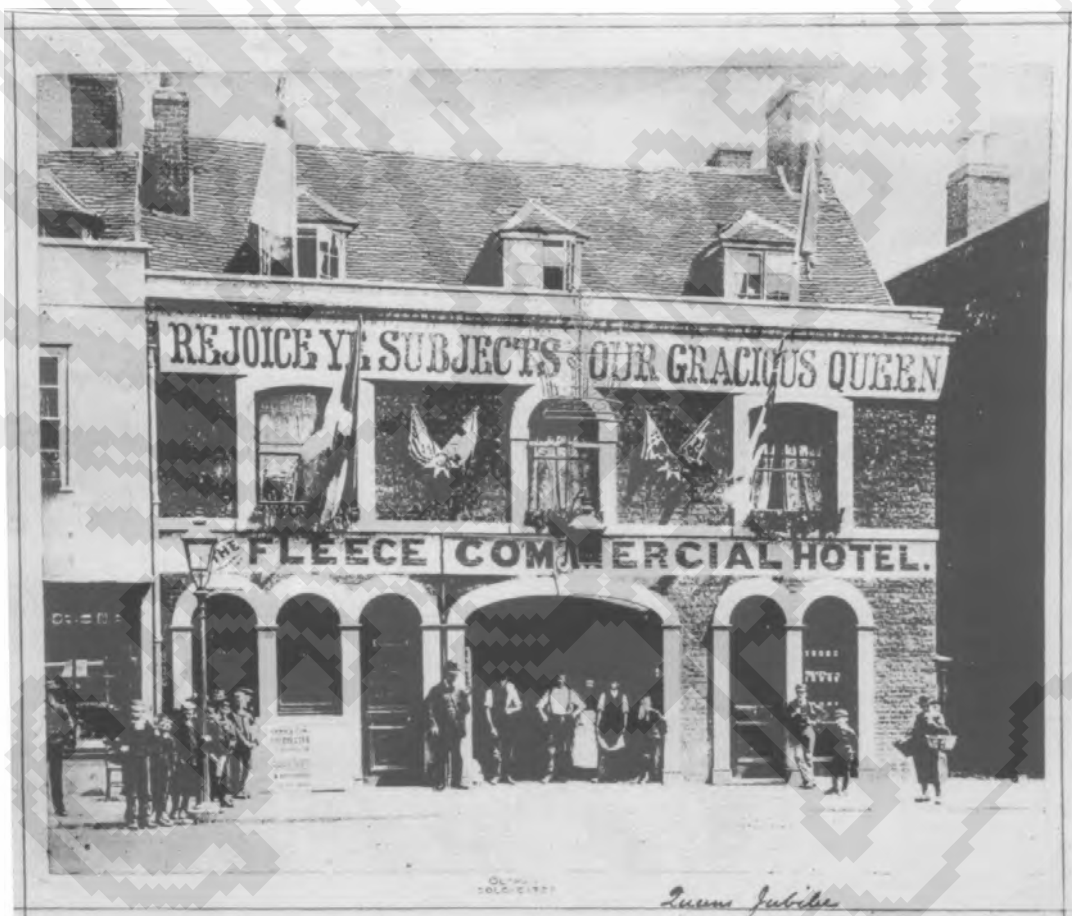
18th century to 1968? (map 77)

a hotel

demolished

The name of this pub is another popular one, especially where the wool trade flourished. Great wealth came from the wool trade with it being so important a raw material to Colchester's weavers.

This hotel first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1764 and would therefore predate this year. In 1872 it was owned by Nunn, who sold it to Elwes around 1910. It was later purchased by the Colchester Brewing Company and passed to Ind Coope in the 1940s.



The Fleece Hotel in 1887  
(by Oldham)

Local newspapers tell that, on December 14th 1855<sup>1</sup> at the Magistrate's Court, two young men, Frederick Holden, alias Keppel, and William Brooks, whom the barmaid at the Fleece informed the bench had come to the hotel soon after the arrival of the London train on Monday evening, and booked lodgings, were charged with passing two forged £10 Bank of England notes. The men were arrested the following day, in bed at the Compasses at Dedham, with loaded pistols by their side.

On 18th January 1859, Mrs Frances Wells of the Fleece Inn, gave her usual Christmas dinner. The party numbered between 20 and 30, consisting of gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who did most ample justice to an admirably served up dinner of all delicacies of the season, and the wines were admitted by those present to be of the finest quality.

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1955 100 years ago.

The above photograph is from 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. It shows the hotel as it was before it was extensively remodelled around 1900. The wide arch allowed the horse drawn coaches of the day access to the stable yard to the rear, where they set down their passengers. The later building was demolished in the 1960s, thus destroying yet another of the town's ancient buildings in the name of progress. Fordham residents, Reg and Barbara Jones were the final landlords of the Fleece, before moving on to the Sun at Lexden. Halifax Building Society built their offices on the site, on this south west corner of Culver Street.

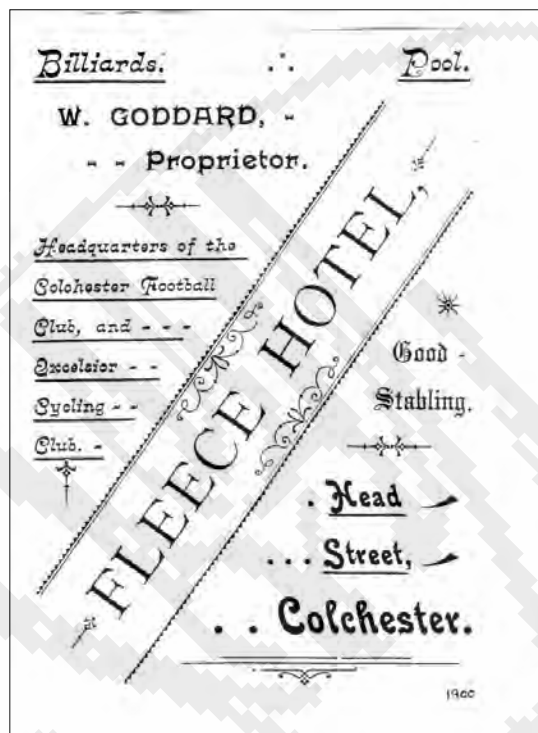


The Fleece Hotel  
c1968

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

1792 to 1794	Widow Lingwood	Universal
1811	S Seaman	Holden's
1822 to 1833	Shadrack Seaman	Pigot's
1839	Edgar Batrum Cundy	Pigot's
1845 to 1852	John Hills	White's and Post Office
1851	John Hills, Publican, age 59, born Colchester, together with his wife, their daughter and a lodger	Census
1855	Mrs Frances Wells	Kelly's and Post Office
1861	Frances Wells, Inn Keeper, Widow, age 57, born Monk Soham, together with her daughter, three grand-children, three house servants and a pot boy	Census
1862	Joseph Good	Kelly's
1867	Edward Hayter	Post Office
1870 to 1874	Thomas Bolton	Kelly's
1871	Thomas Bolton, Inn keeper, age 36, born Lincolnshire, together with his wife, a waiter, a waitress and two barmaids	Census
1878	Charles Frederick James Barker	Kelly's
1881	Henry Heath, Hotelkeeper, age 26, born Norfolk, together with his wife, their two children, his parents, a barmaid, a waitress, a kitchenmaid, a nursemaid, a boots and a boarder	Census
1882 to 1886	Henry Edward Heath	Kelly's
1891	Sophia Elizabeth Perkins, Hotel proprietor, age 46, born Suffolk, together with her three children, two barmaids, two servants and four lodgers	Census
1894 to 1895	Mrs. Sophia E. Perkins	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	William Goddard	Kelly's
1901	George Towers, Licensed Victualler, age 33, born St Pancras, together with his wife, their daughter, two sisters-in-law	

	cook and barmaid, another barmaid, two boarders and a domestic servant	Census
1902	George Towers	Kelly's
1907	Ernest Fenning , Licensed Victualler	London Gazette, 24 March 1908
1908 to 1917	James Bayliss, Tobacconist	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	George D. Ollivant	Kelly's
1937	Mrs A E Ollivant	Kelly's



In 1901 a case of out of hours drinking was brought by the police. There was some confusion as to who were staying the night on the premises and therefore permitted to drink late and who were not staying the night and therefore not permitted to drink. It seemed rather a fiasco and the case was dismissed.

In 1937 there was a conviction for betting on the premises.

The advertisement shown dates from 1900, when many of the town's businesses saw fit to mark the turn of the century and the coming of the new.

## Fleece Tap

St Mary at the Walls

Culver Street

c1839 to c1910 (map 77)

a public tap

demolished

These premises were the tap room of the main hotel, situated to the rear of the main building in Culver Street. It does not appear by name in the licensing records but is shown in the 1871, 81 and 91 censuses and in a trade directory of 1902. The 1901 census shows it in the occupancy of an ostler. Next door was the Star Inn. It is also probably the 'PH' shown on the 1909 insurance map shown elsewhere.

The museum collection notes that Hills had it from 1839 to 1845 and that Robert Kemp had it in 1878.

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

1851	John Hills Jun.	Post Office
1867	Robert Starling	Post Office
1874	William Carter	Kelly's
1878	Robert Kemp	Kelly's
1881	Edward Rose, Publican, age 41, born Chelsea, together with his wife, their three children, a general servant and a lodger	Census
1882 to 1886	Edward Rose	Kelly's
1901	Maurice Jarvis, Ostler, age 40, born Sudbury, together with his wife	Census
1902	Jonathan Watson, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1907	F. Thursby	Benham's
1911	Arthur Smith, Ostler & Manager, age 30, together with his wife, their three sons and a boarder	Census

## Fleece

see the **White Lion**

## Flower de Luce

Trinity

Trinity Street

pre 1764 to 1787

a tavern

now a shop

The name of this pub is an ancient one, with the simple sign of the Fleur de Lys being a well known one in medieval times. It had heraldic connections, most significantly as the emblem of the French monarchy.

In an article by Gerald Rickword<sup>1</sup>, he stated that this house originally comprised numbers 12 and 13 Trinity street, probably built in the 16th century, with an attractive king post truss. The deeds of 1823 show it to have once been a public house known as the Fleur de Lis. The sign, derived from the three lilies of France, quartered with the arms of England from the reign of Edward III until 1801, was very popular with inn keepers. The loss of earlier deeds make it impossible to date the tavern before 1764 when for the first time signs were entered in the yearly Alehouse Recognisances. At that time, Trinity Street was known as Sherdegate Street, when its distinguished residents included Doctor William Gilberd, chief physician to Queen Elizabeth I and King James II and 'father of electrical science', residing at Tymperleys, later the home of Bernard Mason, who bequeathed it to the town. Also, James Wilbye, greatest of English madrigal composers residing at Lady Darcy's, opposite the church, a pleasing red brick-fronted house. In 1764, John Brunwin held the Flower de Luce in Holy Trinity parish, being succeeded by Philip Wright in 1768 and William Dodd in 1775.

The latter, the only known tenant to have strayed from the narrow path was brought before the justices in May 1779 charged with 'violently assaulting Judith, wife of John Hurrell, by striking her and throwing her down and kicking her several times'. The sensational press not then being born, the end of the story cannot be told, but in 1782, Dodd opened the 'New Flower de Luce', also in Holy Trinity parish, and held it until Isaac Steward took over in 1787, the following year the licence being extinguished. Meanwhile, Thomas Phillips had entered on the original house, promptly renamed the 'Old Flower de Luce', John Dennis following him in 1787. In July 1789, Nathaniel Barlow and William Bunnell, two worthy townsmen who each served the office of Mayor in later years, advertised a sale by auction of house property on St John's Green 'at Mr John Water's at the Flower de Luce' the appellation of 'Old' being no longer needed. Two years later Waters gave place to John Morden junior, the last landlord of the inn, which was 'silenced' in 1795, leaving the Joiner's Arms (later the Clarence) the only place in the parish where the talk of good fellows round the ale-house bench, could be heard - that is until George Barton opened the Brewer's Arms in 1805.

Outside, on the building facade is a golden heraldic lily, put up in the 1960s to record something of its history. The premises now house a specialist bookshop, well suited to the age of this lovely old building and definitely worth a visit to browse about the bookshelves.

also known as the **Fleur de Lys**

## Flying Fox

St James

Harwich Road

c1855 to 2000 (map 129)

a public house

demolished

The name of this pub is a curious one as its sign up until its closure (as shown) depicts a fox in an aircraft. However, the pub had this name long before aircraft were in existence. From an early photograph of this house, the original sign was that of a species of bat which is known as a Flying Fox, although why such a creature should have been used to name a public house is now lost with time. There was a race horse by this name which won the Derby in 1899.

The earliest reference found to this house is in an 1855 trade directory when E Munson was the landlord. In 1872 the licensing records show that it was owned by Daniells, who held it until it was taken over by Truman in 1959. The 1901 census shows no licensee on the premises.

The pub's sign in 1991



<sup>1</sup> ECS – 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1960

In 1862, the local newspapers reported the landlord of this pub, one Robert Folkard, being given 9 months hard labour for raping a 13 year old servant girl, Eliza Cook. Apparently, according to the report, Folkard was in the habit of drinking to excess and, flying into a rage, he threw his wife out and forced his way into the terrified girl's room.

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

1855	E. Munson	Kelly's
1862	Thomas Folkard	Kelly's
1867	Benjamin Beall	Post Office
1870 to 1874	Thomas Went, Carpenter	Kelly's and Post Office
1878 to 1886	William Lamb	Kelly's
1894 to 1895	Francis Sculfor	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Harry Samuel Porter	Kelly's
1902	Walter Seaman	Kelly's
1906	Herbert Digby	Kelly's
1908	Thomas Springett	Kelly's
1912	Oliver Joseph Holder	Kelly's
1917	Oliver Joseph Holder, Builder	Kelly's
1925	Samuel Prior	Kelly's
1933	Frederick Giles pie	Kelly's
1937	Wm H Collins	Kelly's



the Flying Fox c1929 - showing both the old and the new buildings

A letter dated 1934, written by a Mr Went of Blackheath, London, mentioned that his grandfather purchased the pub in 1895 and that it dated from 1820. He enclosed an old photograph of the pub which showed it to be thatched. Regrettably, the quality of the picture is not good enough for reproduction in this book. The old pub was demolished around 1929 and replaced with the building which stood until its demolition around 2000.

Mr Orrin once owned the Post Office on the opposite side of the road. His son, Mr Orrin junior (living in Elmstead Market in 1999), recalls that his father could remember the earlier pub and that it once had a thatched roof. He recalled that he was very friendly with Mr and Mrs Day who had the pub around 1948. He further recalled that they discovered an old glass case in the cellar which housed what he said looked like a pair of 'stuffed fruit bats.' Lil Day got the vacuum cleaner out to give them a clean with the result that they crumbled to dust. Whether or not these bats were what are known as Flying Foxes and whether they were of sufficient age to be behind the naming of the pub, cannot now be determined.





The Flying Fox c1964



In 2011 we heard from Patricia McNeill, daughter of Harry and Betty Taylor, who had the Flying Fox from around 1957 to 1970. These two pictures show Betty at the pub both outside with the Trumans dray and inside at the bar. The pictures would date from the 1960s. Prior to that, Harry and Betty had the Newmarket Tavern from 1953 to 1957. Harry and Alice Day took over from

Betty Taylor around 1970. By all accounts, Betty stood for no nonsense from her customers.

In 1972, the local newspapers record that the pub lost its music licence, following a spate of violent disturbances and other anti-social behaviour generating opposition from local residents. As is so often the case, a minority of low-life customers spoiled what had become a popular venue for the law abiding majority.

The pub had a ghost, alleged to have been a man with a top hat. He mainly frequented the Public Bar but had been seen upstairs too and objects had moved for no apparent reason. The children of the house were aware of his presence.

In 1988 it was owned by Five Star. In 1993, the pub was sold by Intreprenuer Estates on a twenty year lease. In 1999, the pub hit the headlines when a gun toting grandmother smashed £2000 worth of windows with an airgun, following an argument with her boyfriend<sup>1</sup>. The pub continued to be associated with crime and disorder and was

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 16<sup>th</sup> Apr 1999

eventually closed by owners, Pennant Inns, in May 2000<sup>1</sup>. By November 2001 it was being demolished and now, nothing exists to show where the pub once stood, replaced by the usual multi-storey overcrowded blocks of flats that have become a feature of Colchester's modern way of earning a 'quick buck' from 'rabbit-hutch' housing schemes..

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### Forester's Arms

All Saints

2 Castle Road  
CO1 1UW

c1880 to date (map 62)

a beerhouse initially

The name of this pub is presumably a reference to the Ancient Order of Foresters, a large 'Friendly Society' with lodges and which has strong links with Colchester.



A picture postcard of unknown date. The sign above the door reads, Adam and Sons Entire. The Parlour on the right and the Bar on left.

This pub was originally two cottages when it was turned into a beerhouse.

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

1870	Thomas Pritchard, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1874 to 1878	William Eagle, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1881	Robert London, Beerhouse Keeper & Tailor, age 68, born Dorset, together with his wife	Census
1882 to 1886	Robert London, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1891	Martha Faires, age 45, beer house keeper	Census
1894	Mrs. Marth Faiers, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1898 to 1902	Charles Frederick Smith, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1901	Charles F Smith, Publican, age 36, born Colchester, together with his wife	Census
1908	Robert Godfrey, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1912	Frederick Owens Haynes, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1917	George Hood, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1925	Charles Moore, Beer Retailer	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Alfred Suckling, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

From 1907, and possibly earlier than this, it was owned by Grey who sold it to Fremlin's in 1939 when it became the only Fremlin's house in the town. Its full licence was granted in 1956 and some extension work was done to it to enlarge the bar area, it having previously been the front room of one half of a pair of cottages. Bacchus visited in

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<sup>1</sup> EG – 11<sup>th</sup> Apr 2001



1962<sup>1</sup> when the tenant of two years was Mr George Burton-Cox and his wife Louie. He reported his visit in his usual inimitable style. In 1965 it was purchased by Whitbread.

In 1991, the licensee was Vivien Steed and it was then owned by Whitbread. This pub then had an excellent reputation for good food as well as beer. It was the only pub in Colchester mentioned in the CAMRA Good Pub Food Guide and then in 1993 it was awarded a commendation in the Egon Ronay guide for good pub food. Ms Steed removed to the Whalebone in Fingringhoe, to start a new venture.



Two pub signs, the first from 1991 and the second from 2005, both by Whitbread.

For a short period the Foresters was closed whilst it was converted into a restaurant but, in 2012, the pub reverted back to its previous style of trade, to be, once again, an 'off the beaten track', local pub. A firm favourite with those drawn from the general area, with the added bonus of a small front outside area that enabled one to sit outside in the sunshine on warmer days and, for some of that persuasion, to enjoy the pastime of smoking a cigarette.

### Foundry Arms

83 Artillery Street  
CO1 2JQ

c1905 to date

a beerhouse initially

The name of this pub would have come from association with the foundry workers that would have worked up a thirst at the nearby Paxman's works.



<sup>1</sup> CE – 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1962

Two pub signs that show the story of ownership and deception. The first from 1991 and the second from 1992. The deception being the misuse of the term 'Free House'. Tied to sell Greene King beer, this house was therefore anything but a 'Free House'.

The Foundry Arms is first mentioned in licensing records in 1907 when it was a beerhouse owned by the Colchester Brewing Company. It later passed to Ind Coope in the 1930s. In 1956 it was granted its full licence.



This photograph came from Mrs Betty Day of Colchester in 2011 is shows a 'boys' outing setting off from the Foundry Arms, around 1920. Sadly we don't have any names of those shown. The two charabancs are both of Vulcan marque.

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

1901	William Sewell, Licensed Victualler, age 55, born Rayleigh, together with his wife, their two sons and a visitor	Census
1902	Wm Sewell, Beer Retailer & Shopkeeper	Kelly's
1933 to 1937	Wm C Wood, Beer Retailer	Kelly's

The pub lay derelict for a period around 1990, was purchased , extensively refurbished and re-opened in November 1991 by Jim and Barbara Fisher (formerly of the Treble Tile), for a new lease of life.

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## Fountain

St Botolph

St Botolph's

The name of this pub referred to the fountain that was nearby at St John's Abbey wall. There is no evidence of this any more, since the building of Southway in the 1960s. When it was so named, there was no mains water as we know today and water from wells was an essential commodity.

see the **Judge and Jury**

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## Fox and Dog

St Botolph's Street

c1830

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this tavern is a variation of the more common Fox and Hounds and refers to that popular upper class sport of, to quote Oscar Wilde, 'the unspeakable chasing the uneatable.'



All that is known of it is in a 1926 newspaper article<sup>1</sup>, recalling memories of the house, at the junction of Wyre Street and St Botolph's Street and a reference in a trade directory of 1832 only. The Ipswich Journal reports a case at the Moothall on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1831 against John Seamen of this house, for allowing a game called ten-pins to be played in his house.

also known as **Fox and Hounds**

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### Fox and Fiddle

St Mary Magdalen

c1770 to 1779

a tavern

location uncertain

The reason for the name of this pub is lost with time, but would have made an interesting pub sign, suggestive of frivolity within.

see **White Lion**.

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### Fox and Fiddler

Headgate  
CO2 7AA.

1997 to date (map 7)

a public house



The reason for the naming of this pub is simply that its owners wanted to make a new start from the pub's previous bad name - and they liked the sound of the newly chosen name.

In 1997, this pub was given this, its fifth name, by the new owners, The Really Good Pub Company of New Malden, Surrey. Jan Fisher and Mark Brunning took it on a 25 year lease<sup>2</sup>. They knew of no particular reason for the choice of name, other than it sounded nice and that there had once been a similarly named house in the 18th century in the parish of St Mary Magdalen.

The pub has an interesting interior, with signs of many alterations that have taken place over the years. One noticeable feature is a bas relief series of figures in stone, set over a fireplace, presumably of religious significance. Where it came from is unknown but certainly did not start its life in this house. Towards the rear of the pub is another fireplace with an interesting, hunting themed, carved wood panel over another fireplace. This, it is known, was taken from an elaborate canopy that once existed at nearby Berechurch Hall, demolished in the 1960s. It was taken down by the demolition team and acquired by Trumans' personnel who relocated parts of it at this pub and at the Griffin in Danbury. (The author has a photograph of the original canopy before it was broken up.)

Sure enough, the ghostly presence soon made itself known and, in 2002, the then landlady, Mrs Beverly Wright, spoke of the mysterious happenings and her meeting with Colchester's ghost expert, Mr Derek Wray, who liked to bring his Ghost Tour followers to the pub as part of his tour of ghostly places in the town<sup>3</sup>. Jeff and Bev Wright became firm favourites with soldiers, who made this pub their 'local', especially those of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of the Parachute Regiment. So loved was the pub that one of the pub's much enjoyed Sunday roasts was sent to army instructor John Smart who had been posted to Catterick. John, who had really missed the Fox and Fiddler's Sunday roast, was quoted as saying, 'When it arrived, it was a bit cold, but I bunged it in the microwave and it was still really nice'<sup>4</sup>. Then, in 2010, Jeff and Bev won the title of the UK's best loved local business for the eastern region in a competition run by Barclays Bank, for its dedication to the local community<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> ECT – 10<sup>th</sup> Apr 1926

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1997

<sup>3</sup> ECS – 13<sup>th</sup> Sep 2002

<sup>4</sup> G – 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009

<sup>5</sup> G – 21<sup>st</sup> Jul 2009



previously known as the **Boadicea**

1981 to 1997



Daniells sold all of their pubs, including the Headgate, to the London brewing concern, Truman, Hanbury and Buxton in the 1960s. In 1981, the name was changed to The Boadicea, a name which commemorates a very important aspect of Colchester's history. In the year AD60, in reprisal for atrocities committed against her people and family by the invading Romans, Queen Boadicea (lately renamed Boudicca by those who worry about such things) raised a force against them and virtually destroyed Roman Colchester. Modern day archaeologists can easily identify that period by the layer of ash that occurs during excavation works.

In 1991, several centuries after Boadicea's last visit to Colchester, there was a fire at this pub. On its re-opening, the newspapers published an article announcing the event and mentioning the pub's ghost Sarah who had become particularly restless after the fire. Sarah, a teenage ghost, with her long flaxen hair, mob cap, pinny and pointy boots, was said to amuse herself by re-arranging the furniture or turning the juke box on full blast in the middle of the night. Jean Leadbetter, the landlady at that time, was once one of Britain's

best known female jockeys and a breaker-in of priceless racehorses. The pub sign pictured is from 1991.

previously known as the **Headgate**

1894 to 1981

The Head Gate formed part of the Roman wall that was built around the town shortly after the destruction caused by Queen Boadicea in AD60. The Headgate (as it became known) was the main point of initial attack during the Siege of Colchester in 1648, when Oliver Cromwell's forces besieged the town. There is now no evidence of the gate, other than the name of Head Street.



Head Street and the Headgate c1910

A newspaper article from the 1900s reported a find of historic interest, when some workmen were engaged in demolishing an old chimney stack which ran through the heart of the Headgate Hotel. They discovered a secret cupboard which contained many relics of the past. Amongst these was an old parchment dated 1615 relating to a conveyance of an Essex farm. There were two old iron candlesticks, about two dozen old clay pipes, many pairs of children's shoes and gloves, a broken tinderbox, bundles of tinder sticks, all which must have rested in the cupboard for nearly three hundred years. Twenty-five tons of debris were removed from the chimney stack alone and two tons of soot. The landlord of the day was John Earl.

A Trumans employee was given the task in the 1960s to go round to all the firm's houses and to make a report. His comments ran to the effect that this was a difficult house that did good trade, thanks to the tenant, a Mr Lawless, who he considered Trumans were lucky to have. The feeling was that a refurbishment would upset trade.

The author can well remember the reputation of this house from the 1970s and 80s period. The pub was linked with drug dealing and dodgy deals. It was used by the 'gay' community for a while and some can recall one of the strange goings-on, a competition to see which 'lady' could pee the furthest. There was (allegedly) a national championship for this unusual pub sport. One might have been mistaken in thinking that it was only little boys that indulged in such things!

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

1894 to 1895	George William Jacklin	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Mrs. Clara Jacklin	Kelly's
1901	Clara Jacklin, Licensed Victualler, Widow, age 42, born London, together with her two children, her mother, her housekeeper sister, a barmaid, a housemaid and two visitors	Census
1902 to 1917	Mrs. Clara Earl	Kelly's
1925 to 1937	John C. Hunt	Kelly's

previously known as the **Elephant and Castle**

c1869 to 1894

Around the year 1869, the house was renamed as The Elephant and Castle. The reason for choosing this new name is unknown. However, the pub's licence had been withdrawn in 1869<sup>1</sup> due to court proceedings connected with 'bad characters' and 'prostitution' and this was the most likely reason for giving the house a new identity. It was then owned by the Osborne family, who were brewers at St Botolph's in the town and after whom Osborne Street took its name. It was purchased by Daniell and Company, another brewing concern in the town, in 1876.

In 1894 the licence holder was George Oliver, who enjoyed a strange arrangement with the owner, whereby he lived on the premises, but took no part in the running of the business. He was paid £1 per week for his trouble. He was caught stealing two bottles of rum, was prosecuted and fined. The pub was temporarily closed until a new licensee could be installed.

After this unfortunate event, the name of the pub was changed to The Headgate, a reference to the area of the town where once stood one of the Roman gates giving entrance into the town.

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

1874	John McCambridge	Kelly's
1878	James Edward Woods	Kelly's
1881	John Valentine Bloxam, Publican, age 47, born Birmingham, together with his wife and a servant	Census
1882	Thomas Whalebone	Kelly's
1886	Edgar Stocqueler	Kelly's
1891	Arthur Redwood, age 39	Census
1894	George Oliver	Licences

previously known as the **Ship**

16th century to c1869

Of its early history, little is known. It is believed that the building dates from around the year 1563, at which time it was known as the Ship, although it is known that a licence was granted to one Thomas Benne of Colchester, a yeoman, in or around the year 1620. There were also two other houses in the town carrying the name of the Ship, both located on East Hill, the choice of name being particularly relevant when considering the importance of Colchester as a port at that time and the many seafaring folk who would have come in to the town and be attracted by such a sign.

An advertisement dated 1729 records the loss of a horse from the sign of the Ship, near Headgate, a horse that probably went to mount some reckless gentleman of the road, before he ended up 'dancing on air.' In 1741, many

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1869

came to the Ship to see a collection of great curiosities which had been shown before the Royal Family and the chief nobility of Great Britain and Ireland. Such items as 'a chain, four double cut out of a solid piece of timber, the Lord's prayer wrote on the 16th part of a silver penny, a curious picture, painted by the most celebrated Raphael Urbin which, for its illustrious beauties, the late King of France had offered 1,000 pistoles. In short, the beauties are not to be described by the most eloquent of writers.'

In 1755, many came to the Ship to see the points of some locally attractive animal. A poster stated 'To cover mares this season, at one guinea a leap and half a crown the servant, at Mr Whille's, the sign of the Ship, near Headgate, Colchester, a beautiful chestnut stallion, six years old this grass, fifteen hands one inch high, moves fast enough for any pack of hounds in England, his pedigree is to be seen at the place above.'

An everyday feature of 18th century inn life was the billeting of soldiers, which brought little profit, and sometimes hardship, to the landlord. In 1794, a recruit for 's Regiment of Foot, who was quartered at the Ship, decamped and took with him host Leagett's silver watch, for which a guinea reward was offered - in addition to the standard reward for the apprehension of deserters.

An interruption to its trade occurred when it applied for the renewal of its licence in 1869<sup>1</sup>. The police objected, due to it being frequented by 'bad characters', and the matter was adjourned. The house had lost its licence in 1867 and had since traded as a beerhouse. It was said that no respectable female could pass the house after dark without having her ears polluted with the most disgraceful and obscene language and witnessing scenes which she ought not to see and that local inhabitants had asked for the licence to be refused. The newspapers covered the 'goings-on' in some detail. The inn is shown in the 1871 census in the occupation of Henry Edey, age 30, an inn keeper, but appears to have undergone a new image soon after with a change of name to the Elephant and Castle.

Various trade directories mention the Ship. That of 1793 showed William Willes.

The following information comes from various trade directories and census records, during the era of the Ship:

1822 to 1855	John Seaborne	Pigot's, White's, Kelly's and Post Office
1851	John Seaborn, Innkeeper, age 72, born Boxted, together with his wife, a niece, a bar assistant, a house servant, an errand boy and a servant	Census
1861	William F Lugar, Inn Keeper, age 27, born Ardleigh, together with his wife and a general servant	Census
1862	William Frederick Lugar	Kelly's
1863	Frederick Earley	Kelly's?
1867	Ephraim Grant, Dairyman	Post Office
1870 to 1871	William George Pettitt	Kelly's and Post Office

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### Fox and Hounds

St Botolph's

211 Magdalen Street

1785 to c1827

a tavern

location uncertain

The name of this pub would be associated with hunting, where a drink would have been enjoyed before and after the chase of the poor old fox.

It first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1785 and lastly in a trade directory of 1827. There was another shown in St Botolph's Street in 1832 and presumed to be a different house.

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### Fox and Hounds

St Botolph's Street

see **Fox and Dog**

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1869, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1869, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1869

## French Horn Inn

St Peters

North Hill

1774 to c1782

a tavern

demolished many years ago

The name of this pub would simply be taken from the musical instrument of that name and which, no doubt, would have been shown on its sign.

This inn first appears in the alehouse recognisances in 1774 and then until 1780 when it ceases to be mentioned. This would appear to be as a result of it being offered for sale on the 8th November 1780<sup>1</sup> at the King's Head in Head Street, together with adjoining property. The sale document stated that it was at the bottom of North Hill. The museum collection states that it only survives as the name of a yard, namely French Horn Yard, on the west side of North Hill and apparently the same as Cistern Yard. Not to be confused with the Beehive. See the Marquis of Granby for location details.

previously known as the **Woolpack** - 1

pre 1764 to 1770

On a plan of the water pipes from the spring head in Cheswell Meadow, to the cisterns near North Gate, surveyed by William Cole in December 1782, he states that, 'one of theses pipes leads to the cistern No. 12 belonging to the house formerly known by the sign of the Wool-Pack, and lately by the sign of the French Horn'. This house was mentioned in the alehouse recognisances from 1764 to 1770. It probably dates from before this period, but no more is known about its history.

see also the **Marquis of Granby** for a map of 1782.

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## Friar

St Christopher's Road  
CO4 0NE

1966 to date

a public house

The name of this pub would have been taken from its location on St Christopher's Road, so named after the holy man who became the patron saint of travellers.



sign and pub in 1991

It was granted its first licence in 1966, the pub being built to serve the inhabitants of the new housing estate surrounding it. This pub was owned by Trumans and later taken over by Grand Metropolitan.



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## Frog and Bean

45 North Hill

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

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*Not drunk is he, who from the floor  
Can rise alone, and still drink more;  
But drunk is he, who prostrate lies,  
Without the power to drink or rise.*

Thomas Love Peacock

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<sup>1</sup> ECS – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1938





*He that buys land buys many stones;  
He that buys flesh buys many bones;  
He that buys eggs buys many shells;  
He that buys good ale buys nothing else.*

Anon

## Gaiety

St Botolphs

23 Mersea Road

1897 to 1963 (map 99)

a public house

now residential property

This pub was named the Gaiety in or around 1896 and the name would have been a reference to the fact it was also a place of theatrical and musical entertainment, with perhaps an implied association with the famous Gaiety theatre in London.

The Gaiety first appears by name in the licensing records in 1897, when it was owned by Whitbread. In 1899 it was purchased by Daniells, later to be taken over by Trumans in the 1950s. There is a picture of the pub in a book entitled 'Theatre in Colchester' by Nicholas Butler, and clearly showing the Daniells sign.

In 1923 a prosecution was brought against the owners as a theatrical performance was performed without the necessary licence. It does seem as if there was local opposition to the place, with it putting on, what some might have considered at the time, unsuitable entertainment for the general public. It closed in 1963 and later became a working men's club.



This postcard came to us from Mrs Angela Shore of Colchester whose family are shown outside the Gaiety pub, on Mersea Road, some time in the 1950s. Angela is the little girl at the front and she identified the landlord, Bert Wilton, on the far left and then several members of her family and friends. She named people from the families of Samson, Holbrow, Curnow, Lingard and others. Reg Smith is 4<sup>th</sup> in from the right back row, who had the Welwyn Café in Magdalen Street in the 40s and 50s.

A local newspaper had the following to say about its demise<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 1963



'The least well known of the old Colchester theatres is recalled with the closing of the Gaiety public house. Long ago a music hall was connected with the public house, but references to it are few. It was formerly the Sir Colin Campbell, named after one of the heroes of the Indian Mutiny, who died in 1863. Harry Relph, better known as Little Tich, made his first stage appearance there at the age of 16 in 1884. He was engaged for a fortnight to appear three times nightly and to sing three songs at each turn, for 30s a week. In later years he was a Drury Lane star, appearing with such famous names as Dan Leno and Marie Lloyd.'

In the 1990s<sup>1</sup> it was disused, boarded-up, in a poor state of repair and of concern to local people who saw it as a decaying eyesore. It has since been restored for private occupancy.

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

1894 to 1895	James P. Gill	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Samuel Symons	Kelly's
1901	George A Lee, Licensed Victualler, age 29, born Colchester, together with his wife, their three young children and a servant	Census
1902	George Albert Lee	Kelly's
1908	Arthur Bantin	Kelly's
1912	Arthur Borley	Kelly's
1914 to 1917	Albert Edward Compton	Kelly's
1933	Cyril Burmby	Kelly's
1937	Herbert Noel Wilton	Kelly's

Previously named the **Sir Colin Campbell**

c1860 to 1896

The pub was previously known as the Sir Colin Campbell which, it is believed, was also a music hall cum theatre dating from around 1860. Its proximity to the barracks led it to be mainly frequented by the military and for that reason the more well-to-do theatre goers tended to keep away. It was described as being a disreputable, late nineteenth century NAAFI. It had a reputation for being poorly maintained, even to the point of some entertainers refusing to perform because of the state of the place.

The pub appears in the licensing records from 1872 until 1876 under the ownership of Jones. Chaplin then acquired it, being shown in the 1881 census as William Chaplin, age 47, inn keeper and builder. He sold it to Daniells in 1881.

1861	John Broadbent, Publican, age 45, born Essex, together with his wife, two visiting musicians and two servants	Census
1862	John Dandison Broadbent	Kelly's
1874 to 1878	William Chaplin	Kelly's
1881	William Chaplin, Innkeeper & Builder, age 47, born Norfolk, together with his daughter-in-law, five grand-children and his daughter	Census
1882 to 1886	John Spence	Kelly's

### Gaoler's Arms?

The Castle

1619	A historical monument	Not a pub at all
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In July 1619<sup>2</sup>, the borough records showed that Thomas Cooper, gaoler of Colchester Castle, was brought before the court for keeping an alehouse without a licence, 'within the goale suffering of inordinate drinking as well amongst the prisoners as of usuall swaggerers, drunkards and evill disposed persons which commonly frequent the foresaid goale as well out of the towne as oute of many place in the cuntrie by reason whereof men drunke have bin cussed there of muche monie'.

This was clearly a means of supplementing the jailer's wages and the entry is put here for the interest value only.

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 1992

<sup>2</sup> ERO - T, A 418, 94, 20

## Gardener's Arms

St Giles

St John's Green

c1855 - 1914 (map 117)

a beerhouse

demolished



The Gardener's Arms  
a painting by Major Bale c1885

The reason for the name of this beerhouse is now lost with the passing of time but the most probable reason was that the landlord's name might have been Gardener.

A 1960s newspaper article published a photograph<sup>1</sup>, showing the timber clad construction and Mrs Helen Hawkins, the licensee for 40 years, pictured standing outside with her grand daughter. So the story goes, a familiar sight in those days was a pet lamb who roamed amongst the customers for a sip of beer. It was also claimed that, during the Siege of Colchester, Oliver Cromwell stabled his horses there (probably a pub yarn!). Sadly, the quality of the picture is not good enough for here and it would be good if the original photograph could be found at some time. A Mr G Carew provided the picture to the newspaper, a great grandson of Mrs Hawkins. The picture had a Truman Hanbury sign hung on the jettied building wall.

The pub was said to be a free house, later owned by Grimston who sold it to Trumans in 1899 and who are shown in the licensing records as owners from 1907 until 1914. It was then demolished and later replaced with a brick building in 1915 and re-named the Abbey Arms.

The first mention of the house is found in the census of 1861, which gives the beer house keeper as James Sawyer, age 31, and again in 1871, age 45, describing himself as a green grocer and beer house keeper. In 1881, the occupant was Charles William Barker, age 37, a publican. The 1901 census shows the beer house keeper as being Charles Hawkins, aged 60, with his wife Ellen, two sons and a servant.

Trade directories show the following incumbents:

1886 to 1902	Charles Hawkins, a beer retailer	- Kelly's Directory
1908	Mrs. Ellen Hawkins, a beer retailer	- Kelly's Directory
1912 and 1914	Herbert William White, a beer retailer	- Kelly's Directory
1917	Mrs. Kate White, a beer retailer	- Kelly's Directory

So, from this, the Whites appear to have been in residence during the rebuilding work around 1915.

In times gone by it attracted artists, and a painting of the pub by Major Bale, dated 1885, having hung for a time in the Colchester Repertory Theatre is now safely preserved in the Colchester Museum. The picture is shown above.

The present day (2012) Abbey Arms (which was built on the site) has a sketch of the Gardener's Arms hanging behind the bar. See also the map section.

see also the **Abbey Arms**.

## George Hotel

St Nicholas

113 High Street  
CO1 1TD

15th century to date (map 54)

a hotel

The name of this ancient inn came from St George and the Dragon, the patron saint of England and one of the most popular pub names in this country. Abbreviated to 'the George,' it has a centuries old tradition of providing true

<sup>1</sup> CE – 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1964

English hospitality. Why the name was chosen is now lost with time but it could just be connected with the carved image of St George that still exists at the entrance to the Red Lion Hotel, on the opposite side of the road.



The above postcard was postmarked in 1927 and shows the George Hotel as it was then, with the proprietor, Mr William Oliver Osborne standing at the door. The Public Bar was to the left. The premise to the left of the George Hotel was that of Wicks Wine and Spirit Establishment. To the right was a bicycle dealer. Below is an advertisement that appeared in the souvenir programme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of the Hospitals Carnival Day in 1927 and also features the happy faced Mr Osborne.

# The George Hotel

Proprietor **W. O. OSBORNE**

**HIGH STREET COLCHESTER**

Phone 107. Phone 107.

You can get a **DELIGHTFUL LUNCH and TEA** at the George Hotel on Carnival Day  
SERVED IN THE NEWLY-APPOINTED DINING ROOM



Photograph by Whitfield, Colchester, 1927.  
The George Hotel is under the personal supervision of the Proprietor, Mr. W. O. OSBORNE.

## MENU

- Tomato Soup
- Fried Slip Sole
- Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding
- Roast Mutton and Onion Sauce
- Poratoes
- Vegetable Marrow
- Cold Roast Beef
- Ham and Tongue
- Greenage Tart and Custard
- Plum Tart and Custard
- Jellies
- Biscuits and Cheese

**Served 12 to 3 o'clock.**  
**PRICE - - - 3/-**  
**FULLY LICENSED**

**TABLES RESERVED.**  
**Phone 107.**

**GARAGE FOR CARS.**



Photograph by Whitfield, Colchester, 1927.  
Mr. Osborne has charge of the special "shell out" collecting boxes for Hospitals Carnival Day. We can all do a little to help on the good work. Assist by collecting.

Only the best brands of **WHISKEY, BRANDY, WINES, COCKTAILS, BEERS** and **STOUTS** (bottled and on draught), and **MINERALS** are sold at the "George."

**Get that Carnival Spirit at the George Hotel, High Street, Colchester**  
**Try a Little Dan in cheerful company, cheerful surroundings and cosy rooms**

In the words of Gerald Rickword, who wrote a history of the inn<sup>1</sup>, *'here has the shrewd merchant sealed his bargains, the dashing cavalier roistered right merrily, the sober-visaged Puritan discussed theology and strong waters, the reckless Gentlemen of the Road scented his quarry, the red-coated soldier of Marlborough, Cumberland and Wellington sought billets, and the pig-tailed sailor of Vernon, Rodney and Nelson spent his hard-earned prize money heedlessly on his way up the Great East Road from Yarmouth or Harwich to the giddy whirl of London life.'*

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1956

The earliest record of the inn dates from 1494 when an agreement was signed giving rights over the property known then as the George, to a Thomas Jopson. Whilst the building structure has been extensively altered over the centuries, there are still remains from Thomas Jopson's time. The central part of the building and the cellars are a part of the original 15th century house, perhaps built around 1450 and contemporary with the Red Lion on the opposite side of the street. There are several features that enable dating of the original building and that of subsequent alterations. The Victoria County History said that the George was recorded in 1551 and 1566. In 1617 a total of 331 free burgesses ate an election dinner there in the gatehouse chamber, the rose chamber, the cock chamber, the George chamber, the lower parlour, the kitchen chamber, the street parlour, the hall, and the cellar.<sup>1</sup>

From the early 18th century, the George was a stop-over point for horse drawn wagons between East Anglian towns and London, rolling into the inn-yard through the great archway in George Street.

An interesting little story was uncovered in connection with this ancient inn, resulting in a charity being founded on an ostler's pence. John Lyon, ostler at the George inn, according to the reminiscences of a former townsman who remembered him in the 1780s, had while a youth become enamoured of Nabby, handmaiden in the household of Francis Snell, the tailor next door to the Red Lion and who it seems, cherished a too tender regard for her master.

When the ostler reproached his charmer with this affection, she stoutly protested her innocence, both with tears and oaths, but still troubled in mind John vowed he would have nothing more to do with her - unless she would immediately wish, if she were not true, that her one remaining eye (small-pox had cruelly robbed her of the other) might fall into his outstretched cap, a black old hunting cap.

Nabby spurned the suggestion with contempt and her trembling swain escaped the trammels of matrimony. The truth of this broken romance finds confirmation in the baptismal register of St Nicholas church which baldly records in April 1754, 'Francis Fallows, a base of Ann per Francis Snell, son of John Snell, a tailor in this parish'. Lyon, 'a singularly honest and upright man' so the diarist wrote, accepted the rebuff with fortitude and neither took to drink, the common failing of his craft, went for a soldier nor turned highwayman. He carefully hoarded his pence, the largesse of inn guests, so that, when he died on August 19th, 1800, age 64 ('broken hearts die slow') he left a considerable sum of money. He lamented he had not received the blessings of education, and bequeathed money to the Charity Schools belonging to the Methodist Meeting-house on Castle Bailey where he was a regular attendant on Sundays, dressed in 'an old drab coat, which he possessed for more than half a century, with large silver buttons of which he was very proud' set off with 'a full bottomed wig which from long service had obtained a yellow hue.' He also left the yearly sum of £5 to the four inmates of in Culver Street, a sum to provide for twelve 3d loaves of bread to be given every Sunday after service to twelve persons, including the inmates of the almshouses in St Nicholas parish, and a like number to those attending the Methodist meeting with £5 to the minister annually. The gay Lothario, Francis Snell, at the age of 29, settled down, and appears to have married in 1758 Alice Spooner of Great Holland. But what happened to Nabby and her little 'by-blow', no more is known. A tablet to his memory was in the vestry of St Nicholas church, prior to its demolition.

In 1769 it was recorded that Mr Richard Freshfield was found dead in his bed at the sign of the George. If he was of the same family who were brewers in the town, one must hope that his demise was not hastened by the family's product!

One of the most notorious visitors to the George was William Corder<sup>2</sup>, who was accommodated for one night, with one hand secured to the bedpost and the other handcuffed to a constable, following his arrest in 1828 for the brutal murder of Maria Marten at the Red Barn in Polstead. He was conveyed to jail in Bury St Edmunds the next day and later hanged. Why is it that, in this enterprising age, the current proprietor has not found means to satisfy our morbid curiosity, with a sight of, or a night in, that self same four-poster bed? Who would know whether it was the same one? The coming of the railway in 1843 put an end to the coaching days. However, John Smith, proprietor of the George, was among the first to use horse drawn omnibuses to meet the trains. Over the years since, business meetings, Masonic Lodge dinners, the Choral, Horticultural and other local society meetings, have all helped to make the George one of the best hotels in Colchester.

The inn is shown in the alehouse recognisance from 1764 until 1819 and then in consecutive trade directories up until the modern day. In 1823 it was owned by Abednig Bland, a strange sounding name indeed!

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<sup>1</sup> VCH Essex Vol IX P109

<sup>2</sup> ECS – 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 1945





By the 1960s, when this picture was taken, the George Hotel had become 'The George' and the sign that is so familiar to modern day Colcestrians had been installed.

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

1822 to 1829	Abednig Bland	Pigot's
1832 to 1851	John Smith	Pigot's, White's and Post Office
1845	John Smith, Wine Merchant	Post Office
1851	Samuel D Forbes, hotel keeper, age 34, born Portsmouth, together with his wife, their son, his mother, a visitor, a waiter, a nursemaid, a cook, a kitchen maid, a chambermaid	Census
1855 to 1856	Samuel D. Forbes	Kelly's and Post Office
1862 to 1878	Charles Guiver	Kelly's and Post Office
1871	Charles Guiver, age 54, licensed victualler in charge of three barstaff, nine servants and with two boarders	Census
1881	Matthew A. Black, Proprietor, age 46, born Scotland, together with his wife, two barmaids, a waiter, a boots, a page, four domestic servants and a lodger	Census
1882	Mrs. Mary Ann Guiver	Kelly's
1886	Mrs. Fanny Morris	Kelly's
1891	John Coope, age 64, hotel proprietor, plus nine staff.	Census
1894 to 1895	Richard William Mutton	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Mrs. Ann Elizabeth White, Proprietress	Kelly's
1901	Ann E White, Mother, age 50, born Portsmouth, together with her two children, a book keeper, two barmaids, a cook, a waitress, a chambermaid, a housemaid, a kitchen maid and a pantry maid	Census
1902 to 1912	Hugh Percy Loraine Triscott	Kelly's and Benham's
1914 to 1917	Mrs Gertrude Triscott	Kelly's
1925	Edward Tompkins	Kelly's
1927	W O Osborne	advertisement
1933	J. E. Nelson	Kelly's

In 1872 it was owned by Parks and then in 1884 by Parks and Glover and then from 1894 by E S Beard. Daniells purchased it in 1910 with it passing to Trumans in 1959. From 1962 to 1969, the licensing records show that there were seven changes of landlord; suggestive perhaps of difficulties with the house. In 1991 it was sold to Queens.

The George was refurbished in 1995 and became one of the most attractive looking buildings in the High Street. The old bar was taken out to enlarge the entrance area and now enjoys a new site to the rear of the building. There are old



photographs of the building on display in the lounge. During building work, experts were able to study the medieval timber framed structure and were able to say that its ground floor had evidence of shop fronts both facing the High Street and the side street, with the owner, presumably living on the first floor. They further noted that the building was originally only two stories, the present day third storey having been added at a later date, together with its Georgian front.



These two pictures show the modern sign that gives a Georgian theme combined with the borough crest, as well as the original coach arch in George Street, blocked off now and the space used for accommodation within the building.



If you care to look at map 54, to the rear of the book, you will be able to see the space that was provided across the road, so that coaches could manoeuvre in and out of the inn – the archway being a feature of all of our coaching inns, eg. Red Lion, Fleece, Bull, Cups, etc. That of the George however, must have been much more difficult for the coachman, due to its position in a narrow side street.

In 2008, this ancient inn was owned by the Oxford Hotels and Inns group<sup>1</sup>. In 2015, it was probably the poshest pub in town.

also known as the **George and the Dragon**

1790s

It is shown by this name in trade directories of the 1790s.

1792 to 1794 P Baines

Universal

**George and Dragon**

High Street

The name of this pub would have commemorated that popular English tale of its patron saint slaying the dragon, or good triumphing over evil. The only reference known is mentioned in directories of the 1790s and would have been what we now know as the George in the High Street.

See the **George Hotel**

**George Tap**

24 George Street

c1860 to c1890

a tap room

now part of hotel

The George Tap was to the rear of the George Hotel in High Street. It is shown in a trade directory dated 1863, in the 1871 census under Mary Ann Gale, age 60 and a widow, and in the 1891 census when Tom Ridd, age 33, groom and ostler and Amy Ridd his wife, age 26, manageress of tap, were shown in occupation. The 1901 census shows Charles Katey, aged 49, as the publican.

[not named in 1851, but no other pub in street]

1851 William Gardiner, victualler, age 41, born Suffolk, together with his wife  
1867 to 1871 Mrs. Mary Ann Gale  
1901 Charles Patey, Publican, age 49, born Andover, together with his wife and their two sons

Census  
Kelly's and Post Office  
Census

<sup>1</sup> ECS – 11<sup>th</sup> Apr 2008

## George Tavern

High Street

The George Tavern cheekily took its name from the adjacent George Hotel.

see the **Market Tavern**

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## Globe Hotel - 1

St Peter

North Street

1840 to 2004 (map 86)

a public house and hotel

closed in 2004, now a restaurant

The name of this pub is a simple reference to the world in which we live, this being the subject of its sign. Perhaps the name came from the cosmopolitan customers that the owners expected would use the establishment.



The Globe Hotel from a postcard dated 1907. The name of Frank Croxford is over the door and the sign stating that it was a 'Commercial Hotel'. Also a sign stating that it was a house belonging to the Colchester Brewing Company. The door on the corner of the building led to the Public Bar. The man at the door of the Saloon Bar to the right was probably the landlord himself.

The Globe was built in 1844 on the former site of the Cock and Crown. It was a much larger building than its predecessor and was, no doubt, looking to attract custom from the newly opened railway, a short distance away.

In his diary of 1843, William Wire recorded that an elephant from the circus walked down North Hill, to a field opposite the Globe, where an exhibition was given. He also recorded the sale of some land close to the pub. In 1855 he wrote that 'Mr George Western, one of the overseers of the silk factory, Dead Lane, died suddenly at the Globe Inn, North Street, where he had gone to practise of the hand bells'.

A plan of this house was made by a surveyor, W A Bowler, on behalf of owners, Messrs. Cobbold, around 1844. The Globe is shown in trade directories from 1848 when the landlord was one Arthur Buchanan French. The licensing records show it from 1872 when it was owned by Cobbold. It was sold to Stopes of the Colchester Brewing Company in 1884 and passed to Ind Coope in the 1930s. Bacchus visited it in 1963<sup>1</sup> and recorded that it was run by a part time Polish landlord, Mr Steve Chmielek and his wife Anne.

The various trade directory and census records show the following information:

1848	Arthur Buchanan French	White's
1851	Thomas Sergeant, Victualler, age 55, born Nayland together with his wife, their son, a house servant	

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 1963

	and three visitors	Census
1871	William Grimwood, age 29, shoeing smith and innkeeper	Census
1855	T. Sargeant	Kelly's
1862	James Mayhem	Kelly's
1867	Mrs. Hannah Ely	Post Office
1874	William Grimwood, Coach Builder & Wheelwright	Kelly's
1878	Charles Edwards	Kelly's
1881	Sarah Reynolds, Publican, age 59, born Hatfield, together with her two children and six boarder/lodgers	Census
1882	Clarke Abbott	Kelly's
1886	Walter Hyett Payne	Kelly's
1891	William Youngs, age 66, publican	Census
1894 to 1895	William Youngs	Kelly's
1898	William George	Kelly's
1901	John Ablin, Hotel Keeper, age 54, born Ingrave, together with his wife and cousin	Census
1902	John Ablin	Kelly's
1907 to 1917	Frank Croxford	Kelly's
1925	George B. Chinnery	Kelly's
1933	John Edward Dancer	Kelly's
1937	Clifford J Thistle	Kelly's

It was purchased by Mr John Higgins in 1989, when it enjoyed a good period of trade under its popular manager, Mr Leon Potter. However Mr Higgins decided to sell this and other licensed property (he also owned the Salisbury in Butt Road). The Globe was sold in 2004, destined to be converted to flats. A restaurant was later located there with hotel accommodation on the upper floors<sup>1</sup>.

See also the **Cock and Crown**

### Globe - 2

21 Military Road

see the **Oliver Twist**

### Goat and Boot Inn

70 East Hill  
CO1 2QW

1760s? to date (map 65)

a public house



The name of this pub is a rare one and has a much debated origin. Tradition says that the name came from its Dutch or Flemish landlord who wished to incorporate the sign of Mercury over the door of his tavern, as this was commonly used to denote that post horses were available from there. So he painted 'Mercurius ist der Gooden Boode' which translated as Mercury is the messenger of the gods. To make the story sound feasible, the story goes that the sign was in two parts over the door, when one day, one part fell off leaving the other with the words 'Der Gooden Boode', which eventually became anglicised to 'The Goat in Boots' and then eventually to 'The Goat and Boot'.

The relating of this story probably earned many a bar stool philosopher a drink for his trouble. The real origin of the name is probably a much simpler one, referring to an incident with a goat wearing a boot or boots, the jocularity of the occasion having been lost with time (perhaps a similar situation could have applied to the Donkey and Buskins in Layer). What is known is that there was another pub of this name in London, as far back as 1663.

From an article written in 1970, the following is a partial extract.

Just how the pub came by its name is not clear, although Mr Cecil New and his sister, who have been running the 400 year old pub since 1934 have unearthed quite a few theories as to its origin.

<sup>1</sup> EG – 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2005



The goat part, for example, is said to have developed from the crest of a local family, the Dightons, and the boot added later for some inexplicable reason by the landlord of the time. However, there are other theories. Jackboot was the nickname for cavalymen and the boot could have been added to encourage the horse set to drink at the inn.

Nautical 'experts' argue that the boot added was in fact a sea boot. The River Colne did a brisk traffic in barges coming up to Marriage's Mills. The sailors had a reputation for harbouring a strong thirst and the Goat and Boot was close at hand. A sea boot could well have been an added attraction.

Going further back into Colchester's past, when there was a thriving Dutch community in connection with the wool trade, the sign could have been a corruption of the Dutch 'Der Gooden Boode' (The God's Messenger). If you have a few pints and repeat 'Der Gooden Boode' once or twice the theory becomes more feasible and a great deal more interesting.

Miss New made the comment that it was a shame that the original oak beams had been covered with a false ceiling. It was noticeable that, in the public bar, the present ceiling cuts off the top of the windows. She had discovered that the second floor of the building was used as a grain store. She was puzzled as to why the upstairs was just one large room, with what they thought was a bricked-in window on the centre of the front wall. Then she discovered that it was an old hatch which had had a pulley over the top of it for hoisting up grain sacks. She reckoned that they must have brewed beer on the top and sold it underneath.

The old hatch has been plastered over, but the one large room upstairs remains as a memory of different times. The Goat and Boot even has a sailor's grisly tale attached to it. Many years ago it is said that patrons of the public bar were treated to an anatomy lesson every time they went for a drink. The skeleton of a four year old boy was on display in a glass case on the bar. The boy had died when he was trapped between the inner and outer walls of a barge.

There are no skeletons in the public bar now, just a few well proportioned beer drinkers and a splendidly ancient pin-ball table. Not as spectacular as a skeleton, but a lot more wholesome.'

The earliest reference found to this ancient inn is an advertisement dated 1760, offering the sale of wine. It is shown in the alehouse recognisance from 1764 until 1819 and then in trade directories up until modern times. In 1872 the licensing records show that it was owned by Nicholls who were fined in the 1920s for 'permitting drunkenness'. It passed to the Colchester Brewing Company around 1925 and then to Ind Coope in the 1930s, being purchased by Greene King in 1991.



The Goat and Boot c 1920



The Goat and Boot in 1991.

The various trade directory and census records show the following information:

1792 to 1794	Thomas Rolfe	Universal
1822 to 1824	Benjamin Pitt	Pigot's
1828 to 1833	Thomas Micklefield	Pigot's
1839	William Pitt	Pigot's
1845	William Guiver	Post Office
1848	Francis Wells	White's
1851	Francis Wells, Innkeeper, age 49, born Mount Soham together with his three daughters, a servant and a 'boots'.	Census
1851	Robert Stammers	Post Office
1855	W Kemp	Post Office
1862	Joseph Smith	Kelly's
1870 to 1871	Martin White	Kelly's
1874	Henry Charles Clarke	Kelly's
1878	Mrs. Harriet Clarke	
1881	Harriet Clarke, widow, Innkeeper, age 38, born Colchester together with her four children	Census
1882	James Edward Woods	Kelly's
1886	Thomas Ivory	Kelly's
1891	John Wigmore, age 42, a licensed victualler, together with his wife, three children and a servant	Census
1894 to 1895	Frederick William Baylis	Kelly's
1898 to 1899	Joseph Baylis	Kelly's
1901	Frederick Peachey, Inn Keepers Manager, age 36, born Boxted together with his wife and a yard boy/groom	Census
1902	James Baylis	Kelly's
1907 to 1908	Gus Gauntlett	Kelly's
1912	George Fox	Kelly's
1914 to 1917	Alfred Barber	Kelly's
1925	Arthur H. Spurgin	Kelly's
1933	Herbert Randell	Kelly's
1937	Cyril Herbert New	Kelly's

In 1993, the newspapers reported that the pub's women's darts team had won a nationwide contest, and a short time later a sum of £2000 was raised for charity from the pub's 'Swear Box.' Some ladies you might say!



In 1999, that dry wit, Mr Dave Cooper (also of the Artilleryman and known as ‘Cooperman’), was the landlord, having the pub by tenancy through its owners Greene King. The pub attracted all ages of customers and was very busy catering for the needs of its eleven darts teams, five pool teams, a quiz team who were in the national league, fishing teams and two football teams. The parrot also got in on the act with some choice language, taught to it, no doubt, by members of visiting teams.

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<b>Goat's Heads</b>	St Leonard	?
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see the **Three Goat's Heads**

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<b>Golden Cann</b>	St James	?
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1775 to 1780	an alehouse	location uncertain
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The name of this pub probably refers to its sign which might have depicted a golden tankard of foaming ale. Gold implies quality and a cann is a nautical term for a type of can or cup.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisance from 1775 until 1780 and that is all that is known of it.

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<b>Golden Fleece</b>	?	?
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The name of this tavern would have conjured-up thoughts of the Greek legend where this was the fleece of a pure gold, winged ram. Phrixus and Helle escaped Boeotia by flying on the ram's back, but only Phrixus reached the place called Colchis. Phrixus then gave the ram as a gift to Aeetes, the king of Colchis, who offered it as a sacrifice to the god Zeus. The golden fleece hung from a tree in a sacred grove in Colchis, until Jason and the Argonauts stole it with the help of the king's sorceress Medea, and carried it off. What with the place Colchis (so similar to Colchester) and the fact that wool was a common commodity in Colchester, with its associations with the weaving industry, the Golden Fleece would have been a fitting name for one of the town's pubs.

see the **White Lion**

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<b>Golden Lyon - 1</b>	?	High Street
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c1780	an alehouse	location uncertain
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The name of this pub was probably of heraldic origin.

It is thought that it was located on the north side of the High Street, opposite the White Hart. It was mentioned in records from 1758 to 1780.

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<b>Golden Lion - 2</b>	St Botolphs	Magdalen Street
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c1831	a tavern	location uncertain
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The precise location of this establishment is unknown. It is mentioned in the publican's licenses for 1831 and in a trade directory dated 1832 - but is not found in others.

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

1832 to 1823	James Gooding	Pigot's
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## Grapes

St Botolphs

87 Mersea Road  
CO2 7RB

1870s to date

a public house

Whilst one might guess that the name of this pub was taken from a nearby vineyard or that it was reference to grape shot used in cannons, it is said that the name came from a Colonel Grapes who lived nearby and who was much revered by local people. However, no corroborative evidence has been found of this gentleman in military records and the story must be considered as a yarn - for the time being.



The pub first appears in licensing records in 1876 when it was owned by Daniells, who had it until it was taken over by Trumans in the 1960s. The 1881 and 1901 censuses gave Thomas Martin as the inn keeper. The previous photograph shows the pub as it was in the 1880s, a bunch of grapes appearing as its sign over the front door. The two downstairs bay windows have since disappeared, with the modern addition of timber cladding to the lower level of the building. The subject of the photograph appears to be two elderly folk in a pony and trap, with presumably, a be-whiskered Mr Martin in apron standing on a bench with two others, holding up some object.



The Grapes in 1991.

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

1878	Thomas Martin	Kelly's
1881	Thomas Martin, Innkeeper, age 32, born Suffolk, together with his wife, their three children and a domestic servant	Census
1882 to 1917	Thomas Martin	Kelly's
1901	Thomas Martin, Licensed Victualler, age 51, born Suffolk, together with his wife, their three children and a domestic servant	Census
1925 to 1933	Arthur A. Martin	Kelly's
1937	Mrs Mary E Martin	Kelly's

Bacchus visited it in 1964<sup>1</sup> when it was being run by Mr Dick Bowyer and his wife Doris. Some of the regulars could recall the game of quoits being played in what became the car park. Many improvements were made in the 1960s with the popular 'Smoke Room' being used for card games and music.

In 1962 it was in the newspapers<sup>2</sup> due to an out of control car smashing into it, with fears that it might have fallen down. It was taken over by Grand Metropolitan in later years, followed by Phoenix Inns in the 1990s. At that time, it had reputation for good pool playing facilities.

In 2012, the pub was in the hands of Peter and Shelley Gibbins, who had been there since 2002, under a free-of-tie tenancy from the Wellington Pub Company, through Criterion. An extremely successful and happy pub catering for the local community, with no real-ales on offer (nor needed by their customers), regular entertainment nights, pool and darts teams, poker and karaoke nights, etc. 'A proper pub', one might say!

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### Green Dragon

St Runwald

Pelham's Lane

The name of this pub is an ancient one with its sign being a simple one to recognise. It could have been associated with George and the Dragon, with these fire breathing creatures usually being depicted as green. Whether or not this would be the same as the Griffin which is said to have stood in Culver Street, is not known but probably was one and the same.

see the **Queen's Arms**

see also the **Griffin**

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### Green Man

St James

?

18th century

an alehouse

location uncertain

The name of this pub is a popular one throughout the country, having very ancient origins. The Green Man was a prominent figure in pagan May Day dancing. He was also depicted as Robin Hood, a forester, or a verderer.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisance from 1764 until 1770 but no more is known of it.

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### Green Maurice

St Mary at the Walls

Who or what was Green Maurice? The reason behind this name is a mystery.

see the **Hole in the Wall**

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<sup>1</sup> CE – 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1964

<sup>2</sup> CE – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1962

### Greyhound

St Botolph

38 St Botolph's Street

pre 1764 to 1935 (map 100)

an alehouse

now shops

The name of this pub would most probably have been taken from a type of coach that was renowned for its speed. It may also of course have come from the dog of that name which was also known as a Gazehound, because it relied more on its sight than its smell.

It is shown in the alehouse recognisance from 1764 until 1819 and then in trade directories up until 1863. It was the meeting place of the Friendly Society in 1794. A book about Essex brewers talks about a brewery founded in 1830 by Kimber, Cross and Nicholl, which was located behind this pub. By 1851, the brewery had moved to East Hill. From 1872 it was owned by Nicholls and the licensing records show that it only had a six day licence. It is shown in the 1871 and 1881 censuses, but in both instances, no-one was sleeping on the premises. The 1871 entry stated that it was a 'gin shop.' It had passed to the Colchester Brewing Company by 1925 but was closed in 1935, the building is still standing (2015) and used as shops.

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

1811	Thomas Seabrook	Holden's
1822 to 1824	J. Adams	Pigot's
1828 to 1829	John Tunmer	Pigot's
1832 to 1823	James Salmon	Pigot's
1839	Joseph Appleby	Pigot's
1845 to 1851	William Bright	White's and Post Office
1855	E. Lee	Kelly's
1862	Charles Webb	Kelly's
1881	Uninhabited	Census
1886	Joseph Henry Miller, Wholesale & Retail Wine & Spirit & Ale & Stout Merchant	Kelly's
1908	Charles H. Longhurst Marsh	Kelly's
1912	Albert Edward Applegate	Kelly's
1914 to 1917	Edward Bell	Kelly's
1925 to 1933	Henry S. Thompson	Kelly's

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### Griffin Inn

Culver Street

c1740 to c1820

an alehouse

demolished

The name of this pub is another ancient one, with the sign being a simple one to recognise. A griffin was a mythical creature, with the body and legs of a lion, the head and wings of an eagle and listening ears emblematic of strength, agility and watchfulness.

A letter to a newspaper in 1926 from Mr G O Rickword<sup>1</sup> stated that the Griffin stood in Culver Street, and was closed in the 1820s. It was described in 1777 as an 'old-accustomed inn' but that he had no earlier note of it than 1740, when one Everard was the landlord. It was not in the first rank of local inns and, except for recruiting sergeants being quartered there on one or two occasions, little appears to have survived of its history.

We have the following directory entry only:

1792 to 1794 Elizabeth Willes

Universal

It is probable that this was also known as the Green Dragon and later the Queen's Head. The sign of the Griffin still lives on in Culver Street, it being the emblem of the Midland Bank.

see also the **Queen's Head**

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<sup>1</sup> ECT – 26<sup>th</sup> May 1926 and 19<sup>th</sup> Jun 1926



**Grosvenor Hotel - 1**

Holy Trinity

62 Maldon Road

1868 to 2004 (map 110)

a hotel

closed up

The reason for the naming of this pub is unknown, the Grosvenors being a landed family with London connections. Perhaps it sounded 'posh'.



A picture postcard of 1910. The lamp over the door states RAOB and 589, meaning that it was home to one of the Royal Ancient Order of Buffalo groups. Note the 'Jumbo' water tower in the background and Maldon Road as it was before the roundabout was constructed.

It is possibly mentioned in the 1871 census as Grosvenor Place, the home of a wine and spirit commercial traveller and then again, is mentioned in the licensing records in 1872 when it was owned by Jones. This was Mr Henry Jones, a well known solicitor, whose name regularly appeared in the newspapers of the time. He didn't seem to have had much luck with this house. The licensing magistrates, in 1869<sup>1</sup>, were asked to grant a licence for it. The first licence had been granted in 1868 but there had been some difficulty with opening for business and it had lain empty. The landlord was Joseph Jennings but Jones intended to transfer it to Edward Orphin, the then landlord of the Dragoon. At the licensing sessions in 1870, Mr Jones advised that the tenant had absconded but that he would still like to have his licence. The pub passed to Daniells in 1880, who were fined in 1922 for selling liquor to minors. It passed to Trumans in the 1950s.



Bacchus visited it in 1963 when he stated that the pub was once used during the Civil War as a prison<sup>2</sup>, evidence of a heavily studded door being found in the cellar. There is (allegedly) a tunnel between the pub and St Mary at the Walls church, which was (allegedly) used to transfer the prisoners. The present day building shell is not contemporary with the Civil War period of the 17th century, so the truth or otherwise of this statement must be suspect. Also, the pub only dates from the middle of the 19th century, as confirmed in the local newspapers detailed above. The general rule that you should never believe anything you are told in a pub would be pertinent in this instance. Our picture shows the landlords, George and Pat Coulson in 1964.

<sup>1</sup> Essex and West Suffolk Gazette - 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1869

<sup>2</sup> CE – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1963

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

1874	Samuel Smith	Kelly's
1878 to 1886	George Driver Joslyn	Kelly's
1894 to 1902	Arthur Henry Charlesworth	Kelly's
1901	Arthur H Charlesworth, aged 48.	Census
1908 to 1925	Walter T. Bray	Kelly's
1933	Gerald W. Massie	Kelly's
1937	Mrs Lilian Mabel Bray	Kelly's

The Grosvenor became a bed and breakfast establishment, relying on being financed by the council's sending homeless people that were on it register, to the hotel. Over concerns that the council had about standards, the tenants declared themselves bankrupt in 1998 and were evicted by the owners, Criterion Asset Management. In 2015, the building remained empty and very dilapidated<sup>1</sup>.

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### Grosvenor Inn - 2

Artillery Barracks Folly

19th century? an inn location uncertain

This house is mentioned in the Museum Collection but no date or source is given. It is assumed to have been a different premises to the present day Grosvenor in Maldon Road.

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### Gun Inn

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East Street

19th century? a tavern location uncertain

The name of this tavern would probably have come from some sort of ordnance piece that was once used in the area. It was located in Gun Lane from which the tavern's name might have derived or conversely, the lane might have been named after the tavern.

The only reference found to this tavern is in the Museum Collection which placed it at the west corner of East Street and Gun Lane which later became the entrance to Eastgates Industrial Estate. The reference originated from the Laver papers and there is an additional comment that it later became Tabrum's. Whether the old timber frame building that now stands in that general position is one and the same or whether this building was demolished for road widening, is not known.

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*There are two reasons for drinking: one is, when you are thirsty, to cure it; the other, when you are not thirsty, to prevent it.*

Thomas Love Peacock

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### QUOITS

One of the most important pub team games, dating back to Victorian times, was quoits. The quoit was a heavy iron ring that was thrown over a distance to land on a steel peg that was placed on a clay pit. This postcard shows a Colchester Quoits team of unknown date and team. The two trophies stand on a box that is inscribed, 'Colchester Quoit Players Association - Worthington Evans Challenge Cup'. The middle chap has what looks like 1st World War medals.

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<sup>1</sup> EG – 25<sup>th</sup> Jun 1998